

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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Editor's Note: The President was in Santiago, Chile, on April 17, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, April 17, 1998

The President's Radio Address

April 11, 1998

Good morning. Across America and around the world, this is a holy weekend for three of the world's great religions. Christians are celebrating Easter; Jews, Passover; and Muslims have just ended their annual pilgrimage, the hajj.

On this special weekend, the eyes of the world and the prayers of so many are focused on Northern Ireland, as an historic peace agreement was reached among representatives of all the major parties to that long and tragic conflict.

I especially want to salute the leadership of Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland, Prime Minister Tony Blair of Great Britain, and the leaders of all the parties who came together in a remarkable display of courage to set aside differences in the pursuit of peace. I also salute the previous Prime Ministers of Ireland and Great Britain, who started and nourished this peace process.

And all Americans should take a special measure of pride that the talks in Northern Ireland were chaired by George Mitchell, the former majority leader of the United States Senate, who has served his country and the cause of peace very, very well. I thank him for his brilliant leadership.

Of course, we understand that the pain and hatred of so many years cannot and will not be washed away in one weekend. So on behalf of the American people, I pledge the continuing aid, support, encouragement, and prayers of the United States to the effort to build a lasting peace and an enduring prosperity in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

In the last analysis, the future of that region lies in the hearts and hands of its people. Like so many Americans, part of my family calls Ireland home. And having been there, having met with so many remarkable Irish men and women, from all sides of the conflict, I have seen the future in their eyes—

a future in which children can grow up free from fear; a future rich with the lilt of Irish laughter, not the pain of bitter tears.

There may be those who seek to undermine this agreement by returning to violence, so we are resolved that the acts of peace and courage will triumph over acts of cowardice and terror.

Tomorrow, the dawn will break on Easter morning. All across Ireland, Catholics and Protestants will, in their own way, proclaim their faith in the triumph of life over death. On this Easter, their leaders have lifted their Christian beliefs and have lived them by giving the people of Ireland and Northern Ireland the chance to choose peace over conflict, indeed, to choose life over death.

When I visited Ulster, and later the Republic of Ireland, the great Nobel Prize-winning Irish poet, Seamus Heaney, gave me a stanza from a poem he wrote that today hangs on the wall of my office in the upstairs of the White House. Its message has a special meaning today. Here's what it says: "History says, 'Don't hope on this side of the grave.' But then, once in a lifetime, the longed-for tidal wave of justice can rise up, and hope and history rhyme." What a wonderful Easter gift for the Irish, Irish-Americans, and lovers of peace everywhere.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 3:30 p.m. on April 10 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 11.

Statement on School Crime

April 12, 1998

Today the Attorney General and Secretary of Education forwarded to me an important, but troubling, study on school crime. Although the study shows that the overall crime rate in our schools did not change significantly between 1989 and 1995, it confirms that some schools have serious problems.

Most disturbing, the study found that the number of students reporting gangs in their schools has nearly doubled. This is unacceptable. Gangs—and the guns, drugs, and violence that go with them—must be stopped from ever reaching the schoolhouse door.

Congress can help lead the way by passing the antigang and youth violence strategy that I sent to them more than a year ago. It is based on what we know works—tough, targeted deterrence and better antigang prevention. Through this approach, police and prosecutors in Boston literally disarmed the gangs and brought juvenile gun murders to a halt. We should not wait any longer to help other communities do the same.

NOTE: This statement was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 11, and it was embargoed for released until 6:30 p.m., April 12.

Remarks at the White House Easter Egg Roll

April 13, 1998

The President. Thank you. Good morning. Isn't it a wonderful morning? Let me say, I want to thank all the volunteers and all the sponsors who've made this wonderful day possible for thousands and thousands of young people.

I also want to say that the first official White House Egg Roll occurred here in 1878 when President Rutherford Hayes was living in the White House. Now, a lot of things have changed since then, but the most important thing today that you need to know is that for the very first time, hundreds of thousands of young people will be experiencing the White House Egg Roll through the Internet, thanks to Earthlinks, and I want to thank them for that.

I'd also like to thank a number of others, and especially Sun Microsystems, for all the work that's been done to try to open the White House to people around the world and especially around our country. But this day is special because of what Earthlinks has done to let lots and lots of young people who never could come to the White House be part of the Egg Roll.

So, are we ready to start the egg roll?

Hillary Clinton. Bernie's right here.

The President. Bernie, where's the whistle? This is the one thing every year I know, no matter what else happens, I will do right. [Laughter] Are you ready, kids? Are you ready?

Audience members. Yes!

The President. I'm going to count to three and blow the whistle. One, two, three!

[At this point, the President blew the whistle to start the egg roll.]

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:12 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to White House volunteer Bernie Fairbanks.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Former Senator George J. Mitchell

April 13, 1998

Possible Visit to Ireland

Q. Mr. President, are you going to make a trip to Ireland?

The President. Well, if it would help, of course I would be willing to go, but I think it's important not to make that decision yet. I haven't had a chance to talk to the two Prime Ministers about it or the leaders of the main parties. If they think I should go—and they've got the biggest stake and the closest sense of the public—I would be happy to do it. But I have not decided to do it, and it's really completely up to them.

Q. Do you think that it might constitute sort of unwarranted interference in their affairs for you to go before the referendums?

The President. That's a decision I want them to make. That's why I said I don't think it's my place, really, to deal with this one way or the other. I'm not going to weigh in on it. I'm always willing to do whatever I can to help, but I don't want to do something that would undermine the chances of success. I want to do whatever I can to increase the chances that the parties themselves and the public now will make a decision.

U.S. Ambassador to Ireland

Q. Are you sending Riley to Ireland?

The President. I have made no decision about the next Ambassador to Ireland. I've made no decision about that.

Q. Why?

The President. Because I haven't. I haven't had time. I've been doing other things.

President's Income Taxes

Q. How much are you paying on your taxes?

The President. A bunch. I don't know. We'll give you the form today.

Northern Ireland Peace Process

Q. Mr. President, could you see yourself naming a successor to Senator Mitchell, a person to be on the ground, a new sort of peace envoy, to help the Irish and the British through a new phase?

The President. No one has even suggested that to me yet. I think what we should all be focused on now is getting the facts of the agreement out to the Irish publics, letting the people in the North and in the Republic vote their convictions, and then see where we are.

As I said, I'm always willing to do whatever I can to help, but the role of the United States here is a supporting role. And to try to help—as I said, we should always try to help create or preserve the environment within which peace can occur and progress, and then encourage the parties that have to make the decisions, including the general public. And so I'm open to that. But there has literally been no discussion of that. Nothing.

Q. Have you seen the agreement yet, and what chances do you give it?

The President. Of course I've seen it. I'm not a handicapper. I want to be encouraging. The important thing is that the public that I saw there in December of '95 in both communities wanted peace. They wanted an honorable peace. They wanted a process by which they could begin to work together. And I think that the agreement that Senator Mitchell has hammered out, that the parties have agreed to, provides them that chance, and I hope that they will seize it.

[At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.]

Q. Do you know at what moment David Trimble changed his mind? And do you have any idea why? Because on Wednesday he said, no deal, he couldn't accept your framework agreement.

Senator Mitchell. There was a process of negotiation which occurred between Wednesday and Friday in which changes were made to the draft document in a manner that led all of the parties to eventually find it acceptable. That's what comes out of negotiation.

Q. But at what point did he say, "Yes, that's it, that's what I was waiting for." Or did he never?

Senator Mitchell. I first knew that the agreement would be approved at 4:45 in the afternoon on Friday when Mr. Trimble called me and said that they were ready to go. We had distributed the agreement in its final form on Friday morning, and I had been in touch with all of the party leaders during the day to inquire as to when they might be ready to go with a final plenary session to vote on the agreement and to approve it.

And of course during those discussions I encouraged them and inquired of them as to whether they would be ready to vote for it. And gradually, over the course of the day, several of them said, we're ready to go now, and we'll vote for it. And at 4:45 p.m., Mr. Trimble called me to say he was ready to go and was prepared to get it done. And so as to make certain that it was done without any further interruption, I called the meeting right then and there.

Q. Would you have gotten the agreement without the input of President Clinton?

Senator Mitchell. I don't think there would have been an agreement without President Clinton's involvement—not beginning this past week but beginning several years ago. I think the President's decisions have been timely, have been critical, and I think it's very important to keep that in mind, that while the President was very actively involved in the concluding negotiations, including staying up all night and making phone calls to many people, including myself, they didn't begin there. They began 5 years ago, and what happened was the culmination of a long process of involvement by the President.

No American President has ever before visited Northern Ireland while in office. No American President has ever before placed the problem of Northern Ireland high on the American agenda at a time when it seemed that there was no prospect for success. It's an easy thing to get involved in an issue when it's on the downhill side and it looks like it's going to succeed. President Clinton got involved in Northern Ireland when no one gave any chance for success.

So the answer is yes, the President's role was critical. I don't think there would have been an agreement without his leadership and participate, and it began many years ago.

NOTE: The exchange began at 2:35 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom. Senator Mitchell, chairman of the multiparty talks in Northern Ireland, referred to David Trimble, Ulster Unionist Party leader. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks on Departure for Houston, Texas, and an Exchange With Reporters

April 14, 1998

Director of the Office of Management and Budget

The President. In a few moments I am leaving for Houston to speak to the men and women of NASA, visit with America's oldest and newest space hero, Senator John Glenn, and participate tonight in an ESPN townhall on race. But first, I want to make a personnel announcement about a critical position on our economic team.

For 5½ years, our administration has brought a new vision of stewardship to our economy. We insisted on fiscal discipline, on bringing the deficit down from \$290 billion on the day I took office to nearly zero today. At the same time, we were determined to invest in our people and their future, to give all Americans the chance to reap the rewards of our prosperity. This invest and grow economic strategy is clearly the right one for America.

To put this strategy into place, we have needed an able team. I have been proud to have at my side skilled and dedicated men and women, a true team of public servants who have helped to steer the economy through one of the longest peacetime expansions in our history. For the past 2 years, Frank Raines has been a key member of that team. He has served the American people with true distinction as Director of the Office of Management and Budget. He is the first Budget Director to draft and submit a balanced budget since Neil Armstrong walked on the Moon. He brought a businessman's practical sensibility to the task of safeguarding the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars.

He has earned the trust of Democratic and Republican Members of Congress alike. He has served as a key negotiator of last year's balanced budget agreement. He has shown true leadership in tackling the difficult problems of the District of Columbia. Frank Raines has been, in short, a brilliant OMB Director, a leader of this administration, a trusted adviser, an able spokesperson, and a real friend.

He has just informed me in the last couple of days that he has decided to step down as Director of OMB because of a wonderful, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in the private sector. I regret his decision, but I certainly understand it. I think it's clearly the right thing for him, his wife Wendy, and their children, and I wish them all the best.

I'm also delighted to announce my intention to nominate Jack Lew to be the next OMB Director. Only a handful of people in Washington have Jack Lew's profound knowledge of the Federal budget and the legislative process; almost none of them has his ability to explain it in plain English. Just as important, very few people in Washington also have his record of idealism, commitment, and conscience.

From his days as policy director for the Speaker of the House, when he and Tip O'Neill worked to strengthen Social Security in 1983, to his days fighting to create AmeriCorps, a national service initiative that has brought the spark of service and the opportunity for a college education to the lives of tens of thousands of young Americans, to his most recent work as Deputy Director of

OMB, drafting our balanced budget, Jack Lew has been a true and dedicated public servant.

Like Frank Raines, with whom he has made a very good team, Jack works to balance the budget not just for its own sake but for the sake of the people whose interests and values he serves. He already serves as a valued member of our economic team. I look forward to his speedy confirmation as Director of OMB, and I thank him and his wonderful family for being here today and for being willing to undertake the sacrifice and rigors of public service for the honor and the reward.

Thank you very much. Now I'd like to ask Mr. Raines and Mr. Lew to make statements. *[At this point, Mr. Raines and Mr. Lew made brief remarks.]*

NationsBank and BankAmerica Merger

Q. Mr. President, what do you think of the big bank mergers? Mr. President, do you have any ideas about them?

The President. It would be inappropriate to comment now.

Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Q. Where is Mr. Raines going—this chance of a lifetime?

Mr. Raines. Stay tuned. *[Laughter]*

The President. Shortly. That's news, unfortunately, I can't make.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:55 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks in a Telephone Conversation From Houston With Astronauts at Kennedy Space Center in Florida

April 14, 1998

The President. Are you ready?

Lt. Col. Richard A. Searfoss. Yes.

The President. Well, you're looking good. I hope you find out a lot of things about the human neurological system to help me, because I'm moving into those years where I'm getting dizzy and I'm having all these problems—*[laughter]*—and I expect you to come back with all the answers.

Lieutenant Colonel Searfoss. Well, thank you, Mr. President. We'll take that on board as one of the challenges that we'll try to meet. *[Laughter]*

If you'd like, Mr. President, I'll introduce my crew to you.

The President. I'd like that, and anything you want to tell me about the mission, I'd be glad to hear it.

Lieutenant Colonel Searfoss. My name is Rick Searfoss. I'm the Commander of the flight. It will be my third shuttle mission. Right next to me, my immediate right, is Scott Altman. He will be the pilot on the flight. Next to him, Kay Hire, our flight engineer. Our payload crew consists of four doctors—right next to me, Rick Linnehan, who is a DVM, veterinarian. And behind us, Drs. Buckey and Williams are medical doctors; and Jim Pawelczyk is a physiologist, a Ph.D. researcher. So, as you can see, we've got some great science expertise to do the on-board portion of this mission.

The President. Just very briefly—you know, I've got the whole national press here with me, so why don't you briefly describe what the purpose of the mission is and what some of the things you're going to be exploring are.

Lieutenant Colonel Searfoss. Absolutely. The fundamental, overriding question that is consistent across all 26 of our experiments, Mr. President, is that what happens, in a very detailed sort of way that we want to understand, to the nervous and neurological processes and systems when you take the certain variable away that we just can't take away on Earth, and that's, of course, gravity.

I'm going to turn it over just for a minute or two to Dr. Linnehan, who is our payload commander, and he can give you a few more details on that.

Rick.

Dr. Richard M. Linnehan. Yes, sir. Mr. President, we have 26 major experiments that deal all the way from the vestibular system, which is the inner ear, how we interpret balance on Earth as opposed to in space, up to neuronal plasticity, which really is just another way of saying how the brain heals or rewires itself in terms of damage or new adaptations in space.

The President. That's great. Well, we're all excited about it. We're anxious to see you get off and anxious to see you come home safely, full of information.

One of the general points that I want to make with all of you here, that I have tried to make both to the Congress and to the Nation, is that the space program has enormous potential to change life here on Earth for the better, in a health way, in a way that you're exploring, in environmental ways, and in other ways as well. So this is a particularly exciting mission to me, because I believe it will help to strengthen the support of the rank and file Americans for our NASA operations, generally. And I'm very grateful to you.

Good luck, and have a great time out there. Thank you.

Lieutenant Colonel Searfoss. Thank you very much, Mr. President; we appreciate it.

The President. Goodbye. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:25 p.m. from the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center with Lt. Col. Richard A. Searfoss, USAF, mission commander; and Dr. Richard M. Linnehan, mission specialist. During the telephone conversation, the following crewmembers were referred to: Lt. Comdr. Scott D. Altman, USN, pilot; Comdr. Kathryn P. Hire, USNR, flight engineer; Dr. Dafydd Rhys Williams, mission specialist; and Dr. Jay Clark Buckley, Jr., and James A. Pawelczyk, payload specialists. Health sciences mission STS-90 was scheduled for lift-off aboard the space shuttle *Columbia* on April 16.

Remarks at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston April 14, 1998

Thank you very much. Once again, I'm delighted to be back here. I have to beg your pardon for starting this program a little late, but when I get here, I get involved in what I'm doing and, besides that, John Glenn wanted to make sure I saw every single square inch—[laughter]—of space he would be living and maneuvering in—which didn't take all that long to see, actually. [Laughter] But we've had a wonderful day.

I want to thank Dan Goldin for doing a marvelous job. One thing he did not mention was the fact that he made the decision, which

I strongly supported, to continue our involvement with the *Mir*, to participate with our partners there in the spirit of international cooperation in space. And I thank him for that. I'd also like to say to George Abbey, thank you very much for all the work that you and all the wonderful people here do. Thank you, Mayor Brown. I'm very proud that you were once a member of my Cabinet, and I see you've gone on to higher things. [Laughter]

That reminds me—you know, Abraham Lincoln used to keep regular office hours in the White House. And a woman broke in the White House one day, in a fit of anger and anxiety, worried about something, and she ran into him. And she was so excited she didn't recognize him. There wasn't any television back then, of course. And she said, "I demand to speak to no one lower than the President." And he said, "Ma'am, there is no one lower than the President." [Laughter]

So you folks gave Lee a promotion. I understand he's the first mayor, actually sitting mayor, to come out here to the Johnson Center, and I think that's a very good thing, and I appreciate that.

I'd like to thank Congressman Lampson. You just heard—he's the fairly eloquent advocate on your behalf. I asked him whether he and I should volunteer to go to Mars if we get the mission. It would make a lot of people happy, at least if I went, I think. [Laughter]

I'd like to thank Representatives Sheila Jackson Lee and Gene Green and Ken Bentsen for being here today and for the work they do for Texas, for the Houston area. I'd like to thank your Land Commissioner Garry Mauro, and your State Senator Rodney Ellis for being here, and the other city officials who are here, Don Boney, Sylvia Garcia, Judge Eckels; thank you for coming. I'd like to thank Colonel Curt Brown who is the commander for the mission Senator Glenn is going to. And you see his whole team back here, including a member from Japan and a member from Europe, who is a native from Madrid, Spain. And we're glad to have all of them here.

I'd like to thank David Wolfe and all the other astronauts that showed me around, and

also the folks on the neuro-lab team that talked to me by long distance.

I have had another great day here at the Johnson Space Center. On behalf of all your fellow Americans, I want to thank you, those of you who work here, for expanding the frontiers of our knowledge, launching our imagination, helping our spirits to soar. Each of you—our scientists, our engineers, our astronauts, those of you who work in other capacities—embody the bold, restless, pioneering spirit of America.

I'm also proud to be here, as Dan Goldin said, with our oldest and newest man in space, John Glenn. He and Mrs. Glenn—Annie, who is here with us, and I'm delighted to see her—have been good friends of Hillary's and mine for a long time now. I have loved working with him in Washington. I, frankly, was heartsick when he said he wasn't going to run again for the Senate. He said, "Well, I'm too old." [Laughter] And he said, "Oh, by the way, can you get me into space?" [Laughter] I said, "Now, wait a minute, John, you're too old to do 6 more years in the Senate, but you're plenty young enough to go into space?"

The truth is, this man has done 149 combat missions in World War II and Korea; 4 hours, 55 minutes, and 23 history-making seconds aboard *Friendship 7*; and 4 terms in the United States Senate. In today's atmosphere, perhaps that latter accomplishment was his most hazardous duty; maybe it is safer for him to go into space. [Laughter] But he's here doing what he has desperately wanted to do. And I think I can say, without fear of anyone contradicting me, that the decision was made by Dan Goldin to allow Senator Glenn to participate because we thought it would be good for the space program, good for science, good for the American people, good for our future.

The only thing is—as Dan and I were talking on the way in about what remarkable shape John and Annie are in, and the whole purpose of him going up there, you know, is to find out what the effects of space and long space travel are on the aging process and on the elderly, and since he really hasn't aged in the last 40 years—it's going to be a total bust. [Laughter] But we'll get a kick out of watching him wander around up there anyway.

I do want to say, seriously, we are living longer than ever before as Americans. It is imperative that we live healthier than ever before. That requires not only the maintenance of our physical health, but the continuing fires of our imagination.

We have a lot of health care costs now associated with our longevity. A lot of people complain about it. I personally think it's a high-class problem, and the older I get, the more I think it's a high-class problem. But it is imperative that we learn as much as we can about the aging process. That's one of the most exciting things I think will come out of the neuro-lab mission that's going up on Thursday. It's also imperative that we hold up as role models people who, in their mid-seventies, still dare to dream new dreams. And I think we should all learn a lesson from that, whether we can go into space or not.

Thanks to NASA, America has met President Kennedy's challenge of becoming the world's leading space-faring nation. We've left our footprints on the Moon, explored the surface of Mars, completed 89 space shuttle missions, orbited Earth for 755 days, 12 hours, and 44 minutes. When the 90th mission lifts off into space this Thursday, 238 Americans will have had the chance to see the stars up close, and more and more, to see the stars up close and to work with dedicated people from other nations who share the same goals and dreams of a peaceful, cooperative future.

We've launched satellites and probes that have alerted us to weather phenomenon like El Niño, discovered water on the moon, made instantaneous communication between peoples on opposite sides of the Earth a reality.

And yet, even as you have worked hard to reach for the stars, NASA has more than ever kept its feet grounded in fiscal discipline. Congressman Lampson's claim for an adequate budget for NASA's future is bolstered by the leadership Dan Goldin has given. Since 1993, productivity at NASA has increased by 40 percent; new spacecraft are being built in half the time at much less cost. That is something you can be proud of. And in the 1980's we launched just two solar system exploration missions. This year we're on

schedule to launch a spacecraft every 10 weeks.

I am committed to maintaining a strong, stable, balanced space program. Our balanced budget will support 28 new space missions—missions that will help us decipher more of the mysteries of black holes and ancient stars and of Earth and, indeed, life itself.

Hillary and I are working on a big national celebration of the millennium, which, as you know, is not very many days away now, and we have called it, “honoring our past and imagining our future.” We have asked the Congress to dramatically increase the research and development budget for America across all the areas where we need to be learning more and looking more. We cannot imagine our future without a vigorous, comprehensive, and consistent commitment to our mission in space. And I thank you for what you’re doing today.

On the day after Senator Glenn’s first historic flight, at the height of the cold war, President Kennedy invited the Russians to join us in exploring outer space. “We believe that when men reach beyond this planet they should leave their national differences behind them,” he said. “All will benefit if we can invoke the wonders of science instead of its errors.” Thirty-six years later, we are, indeed, leaving behind national differences, invoking the wonders of science for the benefit of humanity.

Seven Americans have lived aboard the Russian space station, *Mir*—the last six for 25 consecutive months—working with Russians and 14 other nations. Soon, the international space station will be launched—the size of a football field, so large it will actually be visible to the naked eye here on Earth.

Yes, as Mr. Goldin alluded, it was a fight for awhile, and there were those who thought we should abandon it. But we did not abandon it. And 10 or 20 years from now, people will wonder that we ever even considered such a thing, because we will all, before long, be thanking our lucky stars that we had the vision to work with people from around the world to set up the international space station in the sky. From it we will explore vast new frontiers, chart unexplored seas, reach a little deeper into the vast final frontier.

In so many ways, your mission here at NASA reflects the spirit of America for every child who’s ever tied a cape made of a sheet or a rag around his neck and dreamed of flying, for every mother who ever sang a child to sleep with “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,” for every senior citizen who ever stared at the heavens in the wonder of what might be out there. You are the place where dreams are made real, where impossible missions are accomplished by remarkable people.

We have become a great nation in no small measure because our people have always recognized the limitless possibilities of the human spirit. I have every confidence that those of you who work here at Johnson Space Center will always carry that conviction not only in your minds but in your hearts. When it comes to exploring space, we must never consider any mission impossible. The story of our space program is the story of barriers broken and new worlds uncovered. Let us make sure that is the story of our space program in the 21st century.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:55 p.m. in Building 9. In his remarks, he referred to George W.S. Abbey, Director, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center; Houston Mayor Lee Patrick Brown; City Councilman Jew Don Boney, Jr., and City Controller Sylvia R. Garcia; Judge Robert A. Eckels, Harris County Commissioners Court; Lt. Col. Curtis L. Brown, Jr., USAF, STS-93 mission commander; and astronaut David A. Wolfe.

Remarks at the ESPN Townhall Meeting on Race in Houston

April 14, 1998

[ESPN commentator Bob Ley, who served as moderator, welcomed the President and asked what such a dialog on race and sports could bring to the Nation at large.]

The President. Well, first of all, let me thank you and ESPN for doing this for the second time, and thank our panelists for being willing to put themselves on the line and be honest and open and accountable to the audience.

I’d like to say a couple of things I think we can achieve. First of all, America, rightly or wrongly, is a sports-crazy country and we

often see games as a metaphor or a symbol of what we are as a people. So I think by dealing with both the positive things which have happened, in terms of opportunity for people of all races and people getting together and working together, and the continuing challenges in athletics, I think just by doing that we learn more about the rest of the country and what needs to be done.

Beyond that, I think that it's important that people see that in athletics in America, that the rules are fair, that people get their fair chance, and I would hope, too, that the concern for the lives of the players off the field, off the court, and what they're doing when their athletic careers are over, and whether they still will be full and equal members of society, closing the opportunity gaps that have existed historically between the races in our country—whether there's something we can do about that, because that clearly will have larger implications for the society as a whole.

But all of us, as Americans, I think, should be both proud of how far we've come when we see what racial and ethnic and religious tensions are doing in other parts of the world, and at the same time should be very determined to continue to meet the challenges that still exist, because our country is becoming more and more racially and ethnically diverse. And if we can be one America, celebrating our diversity but knowing what we have in common, then it's the greatest asset I can imagine for us to take into the 21st century. But it's something we really have to work at, as I'm sure all these folks will tell us.

[At this point, Mr. Ley asked former football player and actor Jim Brown for his impression of the condition of race relations in sports since the previous ESPN program on race 14 months ago. Mr. Brown said tremendous progress has been made and that white America has provided African-Americans with opportunities that should be taken advantage of economically. Georgetown University basketball coach John Thompson described the need for frank and open discussions about many college athletes' lack of competency outside of sports. Keyshawn Johnson, wide receiver for the New York Jets, stated that during his rookie year in the Na-

tional Football League, contrary to what he had been told, he found that all players were not treated equally. Carmen Policy, president of the San Francisco 49ers, responded that the youth of the athletes entering professional sports had to be taken into consideration. Mr. Ley then asked about hiring practices in sports, particularly for head coaching positions in the NFL. Mr. Policy said that team owners would hire the best candidate for the job regardless of that person's race, but that the selection process itself is flawed. Mr. Ley then asked Minnesota Vikings head coach Dennis Green, who is African-American, how he broke the barrier. Mr. Green referred to his accomplishment as jumping a hurdle and said that discussions like this would focus attention on the issue. He pointed out, however, that out of 15 coaching vacancies in the last 3 years, not a single position went to an African-American. Mr. Ley asked the President if a conclusion should be drawn from that statistic.]

The President. It says something. We just have to make sure we know what it says. For example, very often we assume that those numbers are there, there's some—maybe even an illegal practice, which may not be true. But if you go back to what Carmen said, one of the things that I've seen—or go back to what John Thompson said—and you know, Georgetown is my alma mater so I always try to cheer for John and try never to disagree with him. *[Laughter]* But there's some—let's assume that there is absolutely no conscious racism in any of these decisions. I have been now in an executive position—I've been President for 5½ years nearly; I was Governor of my State for 12 years. I've hired hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people. In every position I've ever held, I've always hired more minorities than my predecessors. When I was Governor, I hired more minorities, appointed more than all my predecessors combined. No one ever accused me of giving anybody anything for which they weren't qualified.

But what I found out was, if that was a goal and you knew it was important, there was a certain network by which—the easy network by which those decisions are made, and you've got to break through the network and change the rules if you want to do it.

Mr. Ley. So the numbers are important then?

The President. Numbers are important. But my reaction was, when Keyshawn's book came out—and you know, I'm a big football fan, I follow this, and I saw him play in college—is, you know, if I were running his team, I'd just want to make as many touchdowns as I could, you know. And what I think you have to do is to kind of—Carmen went around here and he really prepared for this tonight. So I think that's what we need people to do for these coaching positions. We need to think if this is a problem, we want more minority coaches in the NFL, we want more minority coaches in the college ranks, you have to say—and we're making an honest effort to pick the most qualified people, why aren't we producing them?

I'd say there's something wrong with the recruitment system, with the pool, and you've got to rethink that and make a real effort. But my experience, my personal experience is, if you make a real effort there are lots of people out there. Since I believe intelligence and ability are evenly distributed across racial and ethnic groups, if you look at it, you can find it.

[At this point, Mr. Ley asked John Moores, owner of the Major League Baseball San Diego Padres, if he was satisfied with minority representation in administrative positions in baseball. Mr. Moores said he was not and noted that while baseball is the most ethnically diverse sport, well-qualified minority manager candidates have been passed over. Former baseball player and current ESPN baseball analyst Joe Morgan said he believed progress is being made and that he wanted to see equal interview opportunity given to all candidates for all types of vacancies. Vince Dooley, athletic director at the University of Georgia, was asked why 93 percent of college football coaches are white and 94 percent of the time they are replaced with white candidates, but before answering, he commended the President for the race initiative.]

The President. Thank you.

[Mr. Dooley said college football needs more examples like Mr. Thompson, Mr. Green, and Tubby Smith, head coach of the NCAA champion Kentucky Wildcats men's basketball

team. St. John's University basketball player Felipe Lopez discussed the benefits of ethnic diversity in sports. Former track star Jackie Joyner-Kersey, who currently runs a foundation in East St. Louis, Illinois, which helps youth, discussed the need for action to follow up on the dialog, in order to provide more examples for minority youth and to combat the subtle racism in business networking that keeps the upper strata exclusive.

After a commercial break, Mr. Ley asked Mr. Johnson about racial stereotyping by professional athletes. Mr. Johnson replied that the media create the stereotypes in their coverage but management and coaching often reinforce them. At this point, Mr. Ley called on audience member Michael Waters, a high school student body president, who asked Mr. Brown if the stereotype of blacks being more athletically adept than whites was a form of discrimination against whites. Mr. Brown dismissed the questions of stereotyping as missing the point of the discussion and then reiterated his emphasis on economics, saying that African-American coaches and athletes making millions of dollars in salaries should be hiring black lawyers, agents, and managers exclusively. Mr. Johnson injected that his attorney and investment advisers are African-American, but were hired for their skills rather than their race. Ms. Joyner-Kersey added that in her foundation she tries to give opportunities to those who may not get them otherwise. Mr. Thompson responded to Mr. Brown by saying he would not terminate his relationships with whites who had helped him achieve his success, and that society causes individuals to think in such racially limited terms. He then stated that blacks don't want to feel they have to be perfect to get the job but only want the same opportunity whites have to try. Mr. Dooley commented that he pays more attention to a candidate's history of success than to an interview. Mr. Ley then asked the President for his views on the subject.]

The President. Well, first of all, I appreciate the honesty of the interchange and that shows basically the—actually the progress that's been made on this issue in athletics. Why? Because I basically—I agree with the point Jim Brown made, but I respect what

John Thompson said. That is, if you have personal experiences with people who have helped you to achieve their goals, even if they're of different races, and you're not going to turn around and abandon your friends and abandon people who are doing a good job for you. And that's good.

The point Jim is making, however, is a different one, and I'd just like to sort of—because when we get to the last section, there's another issue I want us to get to, which is related to this—but what he's pointing out, there's still a huge opportunity gap in our society by race in terms of economic standing. That's the only point he was making—and that if we want a stable society, we want large middle classes among African-Americans, large middle classes among Hispanic-Americans, large middle classes among Asian-American immigrants—first generation immigrants. That's the point Jim's making. And that if a group, a certain group within the African-American community, let's say, has amassed this wealth and then has to reinvest it, to the extent that they can also help to create this larger middle class while helping themselves and doing something, that's a good thing.

I think you can say that and still respect John's decision, which I think we all do, and respect any other individual decisions that would cross racial lines. But the effort to create a middle class, people whose names will never be in the newspaper but who helped to build a big, stable society, I think that's a very important goal for us here.

Mr. Ley. Do you think athletes have a special responsibility to have a social conscience to act, to be involved in the communities, or is that unfair?

The President. No, I don't think it's unfair. I think—first of all, I think anybody with a special gift has a special responsibility. And if you've got a special gift, whatever the gift is—if you're a great singer, if you're great at making money, if you're a brilliant scientist—I think if you have a special gift, if God gave you something that other people don't normally have, and no matter how hard they work they can't get there, then you owe more back. That's what I believe. So, yes, I believe that.

[After a commercial break, Mr. Ley asked Mr. Green about access to the power structure elite in the NFL. Mr. Green responded that there needs to be equal access and opportunity for ownership of teams. Mr. Brown suggested that acquiring ownership is simply a matter of amassing enough money, and that African-Americans need to pool their economic clout to attain the power ownership provides. Mr. Thompson agreed, saying that the lack of strong relationships between financial institutions and the African-American community undermines participation at the ownership level. Ms. Joyner-Kersee noted that companies like Nike and sports celebrities Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods, who endorse Nike products, have used their wealth and fame to give back to the community. Mr. Brown reiterated his position on African-American self-reliance, putting forth the idea that pooling money to form a capital base replaces the need for establishing relationships with financial institutions. Mr. Ley then took a question from audience member Fernando Tamayo, a senior at Washington High School, who pointed out that Hispanic-Americans had not yet been mentioned, although they are the fastest growing minority in America. Mr. Lopez agreed and asserted that the more the Hispanic community works together, the more opportunity they will get.]

The President. Let me make one observation about this. Hispanic-Americans are the fastest growing ethnic group in our country. Historically, they have done very well in America through an enormous work ethic and an enormous commitment to family.

There was a wonderful movie a couple of years ago with Edward James Olmos and a number of other Hispanic actors and actresses called "*Mi Familia*." It was a wonderful movie; some of you may have seen it. But we have a problem today that athletics could play a role in solving with the Hispanic community, and I hope we'll get into this a little more in the last section—that is, what about all the athletes whose names you never know, who play in junior high or high school or college or even in the pros? And what about the rest of their lives? I hope we can talk about that a little bit before we leave.

But last year, for the first time in modern history, the graduation rates from high school

of African-Americans and white Americans were virtually identical—the first time ever. The graduation rates of Hispanics is much lower; the dropout rate is higher. Part of that is because there has been a heritage in Hispanic immigrant families of kids dropping out of school and going to work to support the family.

The problem is, today if you don't have a high school diploma and a couple years of college, it's hard to get a job where your income grows over time. So one of the things that I'm hoping is that we'll have more Hispanic young people in athletic programs and at least in high school; that will get more coaches to convince them and their brothers and sisters to stay in high school and hopefully go on to college. Because America is not going to function very well if we have a Hispanic dropout rate that's 20 percent higher than the rest of society.

[Mr. Lopez agreed, saying that although basketball got him into college, he wants his education to make him more than just an athlete and he hopes to use his education and success in ways that give back to his community. Audience member Martin Garcia, a senior at Jesse H. Jones Senior High School, asked Mr. Moores why Little League baseball is not promoted in the inner cities. Mr. Moores responded that it was a good question and that the country would benefit from more support at that level. Mr. Morgan agreed and said that resources in the United States are not being adequately tapped as they are in foreign countries for recruitment of baseball players. He noted the success of basketball and its outreach programs for inner-city youth and urged baseball to do the same.]

The President. I just wanted to follow up on something Joe said and something that the questioner said because he made a slightly different point. You know, we had one of the best World Series last year we've had in a month of Sundays. I mean, everybody loved the World Series—it goes down to the last game, at the end of the game. And everybody was thrilled with the story of the young Cuban pitcher and how his mother finally got out of Cuba to come watch him pitch. And he's saying, "But I've got a brother at home who's an even better pitcher than I

am." And as strained as our relationships with Cuba are, it's virtually more likely that you can be a Cuban player in Major League baseball than a Cuban-American from Miami or New Jersey.

And so it's not just African-Americans. You've got all these Hispanic-Americans here who are in inner cities. And we now have got some very exciting Asian—Japanese players in Major League baseball. But America is full of Asian immigrants. And, the baseball folks who are here, I really think that we haven't answered it fully. The truth is that there are tens of thousands of kids in every State in this country who are not in any kind of athletic program unless they're in a football or basketball program.

Now, the mayor here and the former mayor, Mr. Lanier, who is also here, he started a program with thousands of inner-city kids in soccer and golf programs. And it may be that—I'm just saying that maybe one specific thing that could come out of this meeting is if we could actually bring baseball back to kids that aren't in the football or basketball programs, it might be a great gift to the future.

[After a commercial break, Mr. Johnson asked those on the panel in administrative or ownership positions why athletes have difficulty getting positions with the organizations after their playing days are over. He also asked if NFL owners would give an African-American-owned franchise equal opportunity. Mr. Policy responded that the Nation was awakening to problems in race relations, including inequities in the sports business, and was taking steps to correct them. Audience member Dennis S. Brown said that he recalled hearing a pro quarterback state that black and white players did not shower together, and he asked Mr. Johnson to respond. Mr. Johnson replied that his experience was that, for the most part, everybody mingles in the locker room and any racial comments there are made jokingly and understood that way as well.]

Mr. Ley. All right, we were at this point supposed to be wrapping things up, but the President has graciously agreed to spend a little bit more time with us this evening, so

we'll have a chance to ask some more and answer some more questions.

The President. That little boy, you'd better ask him, that young man——

Mr. Ley. We're going there, sir.

[A 13-year-old boy introduced himself as Jesse, said he was half Mexican-American and half Irish, and asked Mr. Morgan if he ever discourages minority youth from focusing on professional sports as a goal and encourages them to concentrate instead on school. Mr. Morgan answered that he felt it is good to encourage a mix of the two, that succeeding in both areas is not impossible. Mr. Thompson asserted that if opportunity is provided, people will be educated, but that too many young people do not see opportunity ahead and therefore shirk the education. Audience member Tiffany Singleton, a senior at a high school in Houston, asked Ms. Joyner-Kersee if she felt doubly obligated to carry expectations as both a woman and an African-American. Ms. Joyner-Kersee said she puts no added pressure on herself but hopes her achievements inspire others. Then another audience member, Matt Sharp, a junior at Elks Lake High School, asked the President if it was fair for minority athletes who do poorly in academics and whose SAT's are low to get scholarships over white students who are not athletes but have excelled academically.]

The President. Let me answer the question. I had a problem in California when they voted—and California has been very good to me, but the people and I disagree with these things—[laughter]. California voted to repeal their affirmative action admissions policy. And I made the argument that they would give a minority athlete a scholarship under the new system because of his or her athletic ability and have another member of a minority group who had higher grades and higher SAT scores, but no athletic ability, couldn't get a scholarship. So it wasn't just a race issue.

Let me say what I think about that. First of all, I think colleges and universities have a right to have athletic programs and they have to recruit if they want to have them. The real issue is we should have a system in America, since we now know that it is nec-

essary to have at least 2 years of education after high school if you want to have even a good job with a growing income for younger people, and it's better—we have a vested interest of the Nation in seeing that every young person like you gets to go to college. What I've tried to do is make sure that money would never be an obstacle to anyone, and that's really ultimately the way to resolve that. Every college and university has to make up its mind; do they want to have an athletic program; then they'll want to compete for the best athletes—they're going to do that. But it should never, ever be at the expense of providing academic opportunities to people who are qualified.

Let me just say, since I've been in office, we passed a HOPE scholarship, which gives everybody a \$1,500 tax credit for the first 2 years of college, tuition and tax credits for junior and senior year and graduate school. We've got more Pell grants, more work-study positions, more national service positions—we've got more opportunity. And, I think—I'll say this—for me, that's the answer. I don't think—otherwise, a college simply can't have an athletic program or recruit its athletes.

My view is they ought to be able to recruit athletes, but they ought to give enough scholarships so that every young, gifted person who can get admitted to the school should be able to go without regard to the money that they or their families have. That's what I believe.

[After a commercial break, Mr. Thompson responded to Matt's question, saying that students from wealthy families and children of alumni also receive special preference from universities. Mr. Ley then asked the President to summarize his thoughts on the meeting.]

The President. Well, I feel better about my country than I did before we started. And I think all of you do, don't you? *[Applause]*

I want to applaud the panelists for their candor and their honesty. I want to thank the members of the audience for the questions that were asked.

I want to say just two things. Number one, I think it's obvious that athletics in a way is leading America toward a more harmonious, united society, but we still have work

to do—in the coaching ranks and the management and the scouting and all of that. We ought to keep working on it.

The second thing I'd like to say is, I hope that everybody who's in an athletic program also learns good life skills to make good choices, good decisions; can take something out of the teamwork, the rules of things that you get from being in athletics so that if they play in high school but not in college that they're still better off and they're better citizens.

The same thing if they play in college, not in pros. The same thing when they finish their pro career. We didn't talk much about that tonight, but I think that's important—that the lessons learned from athletics carry over into good citizenship, including attitudes about people of different races. If that happens, we're going to be a lot better off.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7 p.m. in the Cullen Theater at Wortham Theater Center. In his remarks, he referred to former Houston Mayor Bob Lanier. The townhall meeting was broadcast live on the ESPN cable network as "Sports and Race: Running in Place?" The meeting was part of "One America: The President's Initiative on Race."

Exchange With Reporters in the Pratt City Neighborhood of Birmingham, Alabama

April 15, 1998

Tornado Damage

Q. Mr. President, now that you've seen it firsthand, what do you think?

The President. It's horrible. But I'm glad so many people lived, like these people here. They were in the—they got warning, so they went in the bathroom and lay down. They have two 8-year-old twins. They had their children with them. So they're all unhurt.

We've just got to make sure that they get—they have no livelihood here. And the important thing is that we move this assistance as quickly as we can to them.

Disaster Assistance

Q. What assistance are you bringing today?

The President. We have all kinds of personal assistance, and we're also going to try to help them with the cleanup so they can

get back to normal and also hire some people around here, while they're otherwise idle, to be part of the cleanup.

Q. What are you trying to say to these people? It's got to be so difficult to talk to people——

The President. I think the most important thing is that they—right now a lot of them are still almost in shock, but they're beginning to think—it's been a few days now—they're beginning to think about how they're going to live. And the important thing is that we work out all the practical problems of their lives right now—make sure everybody has got a place to live and food and income to live on—and then that we move all these claims through as quickly as possible and do everything we can to speed the process by which they can return to normal.

There is so much grief and frustration and loss. The most positive thing that can be done is just to get everybody focused on tomorrow. If they've all got something to look forward to tomorrow, some progress, no matter how halting, it's been my experience that that's the healthiest thing that can happen, that everybody—just start people focused on coming back. And so that's what we're trying to do.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. while touring tornado damage in the area. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks in McDonald Chapel, Alabama

April 15, 1998

Thank you very much. Thank you. Let me, first of all, thank Governor and Mrs. James, Senator Shelby, Congressman and Mrs. Bachus, Congressman Hilliard, and we were joined earlier today by Congressman Riley and Congressman Aderholt, my long-time friend Mayor Arrington and my friend Senator Heflin. I thank all of you for joining us, Senator Escott, Representative Hilliard, Sheriff Woodward, and all the law enforcement officials.

I want to thank James Lee Witt and our SBA director, Aida Alvarez, for their presence here today and all the FEMA workers

beginning with Mr. Witt, for the wonderful job they've done here in Alabama. I'd like to thank the people who've shared their stories with me, Pastor Homer and Shelva Jordan, as we stood in their Chapel Hill Baptist Church down there. I thank Bill and Gayle Reed and Morris and Bonnie Rembert and Phil and Cindy Rutland, who are our hosts. We're on their property today. They are throwing an open house for us. *[Laughter]*

All of you know that we're looking at what remains of one of the deadliest tornadoes in Alabama's history, one of the most powerful tornadoes ever recorded in the United States. I've just come from a recovery center in Pratt City where I spoke with some other grieving families. I met a young man who was on his way to his wife's funeral. They were married just a year and a month.

When the Vice President came back from his tour here, he told me about the destruction, but this really is a place that has to be seen to be believed and understood. I want all of you to know, here in Alabama, that the entire country has been moved by this disaster, by its scope, by its sweep, and by the way that you have recovered and tried to fight through it.

Our country has prayed for and hoped for you and for your neighbors in Georgia. As always, I have been especially moved by the way people in the community have pulled together, have reached out to their neighbors whom they knew and their neighbors whom they did not know before this terrible tragedy struck, and I thank you for that.

I never cease to be amazed when I see people who have lost everything, who can still express their gratitude that they and their children and their neighbors are still alive and they have the ability to start again. Your community has pulled together. Your State has been here, and there is a responsibility that your fellow citizens throughout the country feel.

The reason we have a Federal Emergency Management Agency, the reason the Small Business Administration has disaster assistance, the reason we do all these things is because all of us recognize that from time to time in America things will happen that no community, not even one State, can handle on its own.

I am pleased that Federal assistance checks are already in the hands of Alabama residents who are repairing or rebuilding their homes or those who need temporary housing or medical care. I spoke to some folks today who hadn't received them yet, and I assured them that they would be there soon, and that if they aren't they ought to call us and let us know.

I know, too, that today the first disaster loans to businesses went out from the Small Business Administration, about \$600,000 worth of them. Also today I can say that we are making available all categories of public assistance funding for local governments and non-profit organizations to rebuild, restore, and reconstruct public facilities, including schools and infrastructure, and I think that's very important.

And I think it's also important that we recognize that for all the courage and heroism and just plain old-fashioned resilience of the people, there are emotional and physical stresses associated with a disaster like this that go beyond the cost of the buildings blowing down and the homes blown away and the family letters and pictures that will never be seen again, even beyond the hospital costs of legs that have to be set and cuts that have to be sewn up.

So we're authorizing a crisis counseling assistance and training program here to provide up to 9 months of community services and outreach to help people who need to be supported as they start trying to look to tomorrow again.

Finally, I talked to a number of people today who obviously can't go to work right now because of what's happened, who are concerned about their situation. Secretary Herman and the Department of Labor are going to provide over 3 million jobs for temporary jobs to assist in the clean up and recovery. And I hope some of the people in this neighborhood who may be unemployed as a consequence of the tornado will be able to get some temporary work helping to put their neighbor's lives and their communities back together again.

Finally, let me say that our FEMA Director, James Lee Witt, contacted the National Council of Churches about the loss and destruction to churches here, and they have

pledged to help on a national basis to assist in the effort to rebuild and repair all the churches that were damaged and destroyed here in Alabama as a result of this tornado.

Let me just close with a special commendation for all the State and local emergency management officials, the search and rescue teams, the volunteers who have labored so long; the Governor told me about some of the horrible human loss just within yards of where we're standing. I thank the people in our military uniforms. Many of them have been here for hours and hours and hours without relief. I know that many of these relief workers have been working more than 18 hours a day to clear debris, to cut trees, to lift telephone poles. I would like to compliment your power company for getting the power back on within 48 hours and allowing some measure of normalcy to return.

I would like to thank the Salvation Army for providing the free meals and all the people that contributed food from all over America. I would like to thank the people who have provided quilts or medicine or other physical support. I would also like to say—Bill and Gayle Reed said something to me I think I ought to say to all of you—they said, you know, a lot of times in the last few days the most important thing they got from their friends and neighbors was just a kind remark or a pat on the back or an expression of support. And for all of you who have done that, I thank you.

My experience has been, from being Governor of a State with a lot of tornadoes for 12 years and then being President during some of the most profound natural disasters of the 20th century, is that the most important thing for people in trouble is that they know their friends and neighbors and family members are supporting them and that they have some concrete thing to look forward to tomorrow. We have to give people a way to look forward to tomorrow—a project, work to do, something that can be done to make a difference.

I'm always struck by the strength and bravery, the generosity of the American people at a time like this. The families I have seen today have reaffirmed that and I thank them. Back behind us over here in McDonald

Chapel, the Open Door Church may lie in a rubble, but I understand that on Easter morning the congregation gathered on folding chairs and held a service in the parking lot. The Book of Isaiah has a verse that has particular meaning to me. I'll just leave it with you. "You were wearied with the length of your way, but you did not say it was hopeless. You found new life for your strength, and so you were not faint."

My friends, the road to recovery is long. Your grief and your pain are profound. It will take weeks, months, even years to rebuild all that has been destroyed. But the process of restoration has begun because the most important thing you have, your spirit, was not destroyed. And we look forward to working with you all the way.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. in the McDonald Chapel neighborhood of suburban Birmingham, Alabama, which was struck by a tornado on April 8. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Fob James, Jr., and his wife, Bobbie; State Senator Sundra Escott-Russell; State Representative John R. Hilliard; Mayor Richard Arrington, Jr., of Birmingham; Sheriff Jim Woodward of Jefferson County; Pastor Homer Jordan of Chapel Hill Baptist Church and his wife, Shelva; mechanic Bill Reed and his wife, Gayle, whose mobile home was destroyed in the tornado; tornado survivors Morris and Bonnie Rembert and Phillip and Cindy Rutland; and Marcus Coleman, widower of Colet Coleman.

Proclamation 7082—National Recall Round-Up Day, 1998

April 15, 1998

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

More than 21,000 Americans lose their lives each year in accidents involving consumer products, and more than 29 million are injured. These accidents cost our Nation over \$200 billion annually, and the cost in terms of human suffering is immeasurable.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is on the front line of the Federal Government's efforts to protect the safety and well-being of our citizens, especially

our children. The CPSC monitors the performance of more than 15,000 types of consumer products and secures the recall of those that prove to be defective and potentially hazardous. Last year alone, the CPSC negotiated 362 recalls involving over 76 million individual consumer products that presented a significant risk to the public. But getting dangerous products off store shelves is only the first step. The real challenge is getting them out of the homes of people who have already purchased them.

On April 16, the CPSC, in conjunction with State and local governments and community organizations across the country, will conduct the second annual Recall Round-Up Day. This initiative is a public safety campaign to warn Americans that they may still be exposing themselves and their families to recalled products that could seriously injure or even kill them. Despite recalls and safety alerts issued by the CPSC, many of these hazardous products are still in consumers' homes or can be purchased at secondhand stores and garage sales.

This year's Recall Round-Up effort will spotlight the dangers associated with five types of previously recalled consumer products: playpens, bunk beds, halogen floor lamps, hand-held hair dryers, and lawn darts. The CPSC encourages government officials, health, safety, and consumer agencies, community organizations, and the media to alert the American people—particularly parents and child care providers—to the importance of repairing, returning, or destroying any of these products if they have been recalled. I encourage all Americans to make use of this vital information to protect the safety and health of their families and to avoid preventable tragedies.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 16, 1998, as National Recall Round-Up Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day by working with safety, health, and consumer agencies and other appropriate community organizations to organize and conduct local round-ups of dangerous and defective consumer products and to warn parents, child

care providers, and the general public about the hazards of using recalled consumer products.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 16, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 17.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Prevention of Nuclear Proliferation

April 15, 1998

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required under section 601(a) of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-242, 22 U.S.C. 3281(a)), I am transmitting a report on the activities of United States Government departments and agencies relating to the prevention of nuclear proliferation. It covers activities between January 1, 1997, and December 31, 1997.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 16.

Remarks Prior to Bilateral Discussions With President Eduardo Frei of Chile in Santiago

April 16, 1998

President Frei. We're going to start this meeting, and I would like, first of all, to extend a very warm welcome to the President of the United States, to the Ministers and members of staff, and to the Ministers of my Cabinet and the advisers for Chile.

It is an honor, a pleasure, a source of pride to have you all here. We had a very pleasant

visit to the United States last year, and we had the opportunity to get together in Washington to see the Congress, to visit some States, and at that point, I think we kicked off the beginning of our bilateral relationships. I would like to, therefore, extend a very cordial welcome to the entire delegation and to tell you that we are really proud to host the second Summit of the Americas.

We've been working very hard. We've done a lot of solid groundwork with the cooperation of the United States. And I think that this summit will be exceedingly interesting because we will not only be talking about the problems of democracy and trade but we'll be talking about topics that interest the person on the street, like education, justice, health, and concerns of poor people.

I would like to point out that we had a very lengthy meeting with the U.S. President. We talked with great frankness about bilateral topics. We went over almost every single issue in our bilateral relationship with a lot of sincerity and with a positive spirit. We have noticed that our relationships are going through a very special moment; there is a lot of richness in the agenda; it's very versatile with a lot of topics. And the Ministers that are present here will be—have signed about 10 different documents on the environment, cooperation, et cetera. And I believe that we are looking toward the future with an aim to building more open societies, more democratic societies, and to put an end to the marginalization of our peoples, and would like to face squarely the big issues that are important at this point, like globalization, world trade.

I've told the President all that we've done in Chile since 1994, when we met at the first Summit of the Americas, and I've told him about all the efforts that we've put into channeling problems that arise in relationships and overcoming them. We're over the \$7 billion of exchange. And obviously, there will always be a small amount of disputes or friction or conflicts, but the important thing is to find a way to settle these. And this is what we've been doing through the bilateral commissions. And it seems to me that the real launching of this commission in bilateral trade and agriculture will be very important. It has been a very basic issue. And I think

that what we want is to have a very open relationship with the United States in which we will talk not only about trade but we'll be able to have a dialog on the entire bilateral agenda and especially the hemispheric and global topics.

For Chile, Mr. President, it's an honor to receive you and your delegation. I think that this meeting proves that we will be able to find a way to solve the big problems of the world, that we have a great deal of agreement on the issues that are facing us in the Americas, that we can continue to work for the future of our peoples.

And I thank you once again for your state visit that is beginning. We will be meeting once again this afternoon. We'll be visiting the field; we will be meeting with business persons; we'll be having a state dinner here tonight. Tonight you'll see our Parliament, which is one of the oldest Parliaments in the world. And then we'll go to Cerro Castillo, and we'll be able to talk about our relationships, our friendships, and about building the future together and improving the quality of living of our peoples. And this is what we're interested in. And at this point, I would like to give you the floor.

President Clinton. Thank you for making us all feel so welcome. I think it is clear that we have looked forward to this state visit for quite a long while, that we value greatly our relationship with Chile, and that it is getting broader and deeper, something for which we are very grateful.

We did, as you said, have a very good conversation this morning, and we went over a large number of issues—I think virtually everything that our Ministers wanted us to discuss with one another. And I would like to express my appreciation for all the work that has been done on the declaration we are about to sign and announce, because it's quite important. It shows a very broad-based relationship; it shows a maturing relationship; and it demonstrated the kind of partnership that I think will be critical in the years ahead, not only to our own people but to the hemisphere as a whole.

Let me also just say very briefly, I appreciate, more than I am capable of saying, I think, the work you have done on the Summit of the Americas and the preparation that

your entire government has done, because it's clear that we're going to come out of this summit with two messages loud and clear. Number one, we are going forward with the process of hemispheric integration. And number two, we are doing it in a way that will change the lives of ordinary citizens in all of our countries. And that, I think, is the message we want the world to get, and we certainly want our own people to get.

So I am extremely appreciative of what you have done, how you have done it, and of the remarkable progress that our relationship is making. And for all that, let me say thank you. I also thank you for keeping my Ambassador here for the last few years, my old friend and colleague. [Laughter] He's kept me well-informed. And I thank you also for the work you've done especially with Mr. McLarty in his capacity as our special representative to Latin America. But we're well pleased, and I must say I was very impressed, with the document that all of you have produced, and I thank you for your hard work on it.

NOTE: President Clinton spoke at approximately 11:45 a.m. in La Moneda Palace. In his remarks, he referred to Gabriel Guerra-Mondragon, U.S. Ambassador to Chile. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the Joint Declaration Signing Ceremony With President Frei in Santiago

April 16, 1998

President Frei. Good afternoon. I would first like to emphasize that it has been a great pleasure to welcome President Clinton to our country, together with Mrs. Clinton and the distinguished delegation accompanying them.

In February '97, I had the honor of paying an extremely satisfying and productive state visit to the United States. I was given a particularly warm welcome in that country, demonstrating the appreciation and respect felt there for Chile. Today I'm gratified to be able to return that invitation and to receive you in La Moneda, the place, the house that belongs to all Chileans.

This exchange of visits reflects the new level of maturity that relations between our two countries have achieved. We share a common democratic vocation. Both the Chilean and U.S. economies are enjoying strong growth rates and are successfully confronting the challenges of globalization. Both countries are undertaking important reforms aimed at achieving greater social equity and equality of opportunity for our people. We belong to the same continent, and we are engaged in working together towards the establishment of a new hemispheric community.

I would like to recall here that it fell to our two countries to lead the preparatory efforts for the second Summit of the Americas, which will be inaugurated this Saturday in Santiago. We have achieved optimal coordination, facilitated by the support that we have obtained from many of our sister countries in the hemisphere.

This morning our Ministers signed an agreement between our two international cooperation agencies to support the fulfillment of some of the initiatives established in the summit plan of action.

I have to say that this morning we have had a long and productive meeting with President Clinton. It was a very frank, open, and candid meeting. We reviewed all the issues involved in bilateral relations. Each item of our bilateral relations, we discussed. And also, it is with great pleasure that I say that we found several common issues for the whole hemisphere, a commonality of ideas that allow us to work ever stronger together.

As well, we have signed a joint declaration. And this joint declaration summarizes everything we have discussed and all the issues in common. At the same time, in parallel, the Ministers held a meeting in which they signed seven agreements: one on education, on trade, investments, environment—protection of the environment, protection against disasters, information promotion—seven documents which embody our bilateral relations. And these documents involve very concrete, very specific subjects which affect and impact our common ordinary citizen in everyday life.

It has not been a meeting dealing with abstract issues, not at all. These issues are targeting an improvement of the quality of their lives, a struggle against drug traffic, and a series of promotion of information and exchange.

The visit of President Clinton is just beginning. In a short while, we will be visiting a district, at Comuna, where we will talk and have dialog with the citizens. Later on, there will be an evening with businessmen. Then, tonight, a state dinner, and tomorrow, President Clinton will visit Congress. After that, also, we will meet in Viña del Mar. And this visit is absolute proof of the consolidation of our relations, this that will be projected into the future that will make fluent our dialog and our interchanges.

Finally, I would like to say that Chile and the United States both, we are preparing together the road to the 21st century, a century in which we will be faced with enormous challenges; we will be faced with the globalization of markets, and thus we will be working for peace, for democracy, and for the dignity of man.

It is these values and these realities that bring us together. And it is that which will make the relations between both of us one of the present, but not so much of this present day, but rather a relation working for the future. And it is in this environment that we will open the second Summit of the Americas. It will be how the whole continent, how America will be facing next century.

Welcome once again, President Clinton, to this country, to this house, the home of the President. Your historic visit is a point of tremendous inflection in our relations from here into the future.

Thank you.

President Clinton. Mr. President, members of the Chilean Government, members of our American delegation, ladies and gentlemen. Just over a year ago, it was my great honor to host President Frei at the White House. Now I come to Chile to build on our friendship, to deepen our progress in creating a better future for all our people.

As the tides of change have swept over our hemisphere over the past 15 years, Chile has set an impressive standard in strengthening its democracy, opening its economy, lifting

its people from poverty. As Chile's stability and prosperity have grown, it has become a leader in our hemisphere and an even stronger partner and friend for the United States.

Today we resolved to strengthen the ties that bind us together and to harness the powerful forces of change to benefit all our citizens in the new century. We have created a new, broader Joint Trade and Investment Commission to keep our economic relations on a mutually beneficial path, by boosting prosperity and jobs in both our countries, addressing new areas such as electronic commerce, and resolving disputes when they arise. We look forward to concluding, as soon as possible, a new open skies agreement to help our trade literally take off, with better services, more flights, lower prices for passengers and shippers alike.

We addressed the crucial importance of strong financial safeguards and openness, a shield against the shock of market volatility. Our banking officials will be strengthening their cooperation and regulating banks that do business across our borders, which will improve financial security and increase the confidence of investors.

We resolved to work harder to extend the practical benefits of open markets and free trade to all of our people. In that regard, nothing is more important than education. I want to applaud you, Mr. President, for your commitment to education, both here at home and across the Americas. Building on the Fulbright agreement we signed last year, the United States and Chile will deepen our cooperation in education, increasing exchanges of students and teachers, developing high standards for learning and teacher training, bringing technology to every classroom, so that every child, no matter where he or she may live, can explore the world of information now available with the stroke of a computer keyboard.

And we have resolved to work together, through the Summit of the Americas, to help other nations advance their own reforms. This is truly a laudable agenda for which you, Mr. President, will long be remembered.

We have also signed a GLOBE agreement to help our children learn more about our environment. Through this program, Chilean students will be linked through the Internet

to tens of thousands of other young people in 65 nations. Together, they will share information about science and ecology and learn how to help build a healthier planet.

We have also agreed to work together to create a pan-American climate forecasting system. We know from the last year that is more important than ever. By using the latest technology and skills, we can better predict and better prepare for disruptive weather systems like El Niño. We also agreed to work together to meet the challenge of climate change and global warming caused by growing emissions of greenhouse gases.

I applaud President Frei for affirming today that all countries have an important role to play. Developed countries must lead the way in reducing our emissions. Developing countries should participate meaningfully, also taking on emissions targets whenever possible. Together, we can chart an energy course for the future that allows both strong economic growth and strong environmental safeguards to go forward hand in hand.

I know this is a matter of some controversy throughout Latin America, and, indeed, throughout many developing nations. But I can tell you from America's own experience, for 30 years, every time we have sought to improve our environment someone has said, "Oh, this is going to slow the growth of the economy." And every time we have improved our environment, it has speeded up the growth of the American economy by creating new jobs in new areas, so that we see clearly that the steps we take to preserve and, indeed, to enhance our environment will, in fact, lead to broader, stronger, deeper economic growth. That is the path I hope and pray the United States and Chile will chart together into the future.

Mr. President, our increasing cooperation in all these areas and all the things that you mentioned is a real testament to the astonishing record established by Chile in the last few years in economic and in political terms. The leadership you are showing now in the hemisphere for peace and prosperity and freedom is a natural outgrowth of the leadership you have demonstrated and that the Chilean people have demonstrated within your own borders. It is altogether fitting that

the spirit of hemispheric cooperation and the future orientation of our cooperation, which was established 4 years ago at Miami, should be carried on under your leadership here at Santiago.

It is clear to anyone who imagines the way the future should be that our burdens will be lighter and our strides will be longer if we move forward together. That is the promise of our growing partnership. And you have the thanks, the respect, and the admiration of the American people for your role in it.

Thank you, sir.

NOTE: President Clinton spoke at approximately 12:30 p.m. in La Moneda Palace. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Joint Declaration With President Eduardo Frei of Chile

April 16, 1998

On the invitation of the President of the Republic of Chile, Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle, the President of the United States of America, Mr. William Jefferson Clinton, made a State visit to Chile, April 16-17, 1998. The President of the United States was accompanied by his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and by a high-level delegation composed of Secretary of State Madeleine Korbelt Albright, Attorney General Janet Reno, Secretary of Commerce William Daley, Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley, United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, Director of National Drug Control Policy Barry McCaffrey, Counselor to the President and Special Envoy to the Americas Thomas "Mack" McLarty, and Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Samuel R. Berger.

In recent years, the United States and Chile have established solid and stable relations, based on a mutual commitment to respect democracy and human rights, open markets and free trade. This joint vision was reaffirmed during the State visit of President Frei to the United States in February 1997 and was strengthened on the occasion of the State visit of President Clinton. Today, the Presidents note with satisfaction the progress achieved in their bilateral relations, and state

that this will have a positive impact on the quality of life of their peoples, and to that effect agree on the following Joint Declaration:

During working meetings held at the Palacio de la Moneda, Presidents Clinton and Frei reviewed the excellent state of bilateral relations, assessed progress made since the State visit of President Frei to the United States in February, 1997 and identified areas for future collaboration. As part of the high-level Consultative Framework begun by Presidents Clinton and Frei in 1994, they reaffirmed their desire to continue strengthening the comprehensive ties between the two countries.

The Presidents reiterate the political commitment of their Governments to ensure that the second Summit of the Americas, to take place April 18–19 in Santiago, contributes to strengthening hemispheric relations and to improving the development and well-being of the peoples of the Hemisphere in concrete and positive ways. In that context, they discussed the four major areas of the agenda: Education, Preserving and Strengthening Democracy and Human Rights, Economic Integration and Free Trade, and the Eradication of Poverty and Discrimination.

In addition to underscoring the importance of the Declaration and Plan of Action which will be adopted by the thirty-four Heads of State or Government at the Summit, both Presidents agreed on the need to continue working together on the process of integration and free trade at the hemispheric level, reaffirming their commitment to the formal start of negotiations for the establishment of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) during the Santiago Summit.

The Presidents agree on the great importance of education as the most effective tool to attain full development, and in particular to reinforce the values of democracy, to give hope to our peoples for a better life, and to prepare our citizens for the 21st century global economy. Within this context, they welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Education, which will put technology at the service of creating opportunities for the poorest segments of the population and other disadvantaged groups, improve quality and standards, strengthen pro-

fessional development of teachers and enhance cooperation in all levels of education. They also applauded the signing of an agreement by which Chile will join the "GLOBE Program" designed to link schools and scientists around the world through the Internet, so that information and experiences can be exchanged and so that students can make environmental scientific observations for use by researchers.

The Presidents agreed upon a program of cooperation between their respective agencies for international development, including jointly funded scholarships for training in such areas as combating poverty, strengthening democracy and education, and economic integration.

The Presidents reaffirmed the commitment of their Governments to achieve a comprehensive free trade agreement that includes both countries, and to adopt specific measures aimed at promoting the competitiveness of their respective countries in the global economy. In this regard, they noted with satisfaction the significant progress made in improving agricultural trade relations through the Consultative Commission on Agriculture created by the two Presidents last year. In light of the economic development achieved in recent years in both countries and with a view to promoting cooperation bilaterally and in regional and multilateral areas, including the World Trade Organization, Free Trade Area of Americas, and the Asia Pacific Economic Council, the Presidents agreed to establish the U.S.-Chile Joint Commission on Trade and Investment. This consultative mechanism will be comprised of the relevant Ministries involved in these topics and will be chaired by the Chilean Minister of Foreign Relations and the U.S. Trade Representative, who will meet at the time of the Second WTO Ministerial Conference to sign the appropriate agreement. The Committee will hold its first meeting prior to October, 1998. On that occasion, it will examine the full range of measures affecting the various dimensions of trade, including such new areas as electronic commerce. It will also discuss ways of addressing restrictive trade practices, and the consequences of such practices, in the context of a global economy.

The Presidents reaffirmed their commitment to the WTO, including full, effective implementation of the agreements reached in the Uruguay Round. Both countries pledge to continue promoting within the WTO full multilateral liberalization of trade, complementing negotiations already scheduled for the agriculture and service sectors.

On bilateral commercial matters, the Presidents underscored the value of completing as soon as possible the efforts to sign a bilateral Open Skies agreement in order to provide their citizens better air transport services and to facilitate commerce and exchange between their countries. They also agreed that their ministries should deepen bilateral cooperation by exchanging commercial missions and information on major infrastructure projects, as well as creating databases on commercial opportunities in each country.

The Presidents reviewed topics of common interest relating to recent world economic events, and recognized the importance of applying sound macroeconomic policies, including balanced budgets and financial transparency, which have enabled both nations to continue experiencing high levels of economic growth, despite difficulties in other regions of the world. In order to strengthen bilateral financial cooperation, United States and Chilean banking oversight authorities have signed a Statement of Cooperation to Enhance Cooperation in the Supervision of Cross-border Banking Institutions.

The Presidents affirm their desire to strengthen cooperation on the environment and sustainable development. They firmly support the principles and objectives of the Kyoto Protocol, and are convinced that the market mechanisms that it establishes will be a great help to mobilize the resources of the private sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

They recognize the potential of the Clean Development Mechanism to become an important resource for attracting private sector initiatives and investment in clean energy technologies, energy efficiency, forests and other activities that reduce, absorb or eliminate greenhouse gas emissions.

They agreed that all countries should be involved in global efforts to address climate

change, taking into account their common, but differentiated responsibilities.

Developed countries must set the example in reducing greenhouse gas emissions as a matter of priority, while developing countries should participate meaningfully in efforts to address climate change, for example, by taking on emissions targets whenever possible.

They commit their governments to work together on these issues in preparation for the next conference of parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change this November in Buenos Aires.

Concerned by the profound impact caused by the El Nino weather phenomenon throughout the Americas, the Presidents welcomed the signing of a Declaration of Intent to advance the launching of a Pan-American Climate Information System for Disaster Preparedness. Such a system will utilize the latest technology to help governments and private citizens better prepare themselves to be able to reduce the damages caused by climate-related phenomena.

They agreed to instruct their experts to explore the mutual benefit that could accrue to their respective nationals under a bilateral Social Security agreement that would eliminate double taxation of Social Security contributions and help improve benefit rights for people who have worked in both countries.

The Presidents also welcome the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between our Governments' authorities for the Promotion and Development of Public Policies for the Strengthening of Government Administration.

Presidents Clinton and Frei reiterated their commitment to continue their efforts to promote international peace and security, and cooperation with respect to compliance with agreements and treaties at the international and regional levels. In that regard, they applaud the work of the Defense Consultative Commission and the Global Security Dialogue. They noted the importance their Governments attach to policies designed to achieve greater transparency, both in terms of defense expenditures and conventional arms transfers, and to foster mutual confidence and security-building measures.

In that spirit, the leaders support the adoption of regional transparency measures for conventional arms purchases.

Recognizing the importance of the Organization of American States, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary this month, and in order to make its modernization a reality, the Presidents instructed their Foreign Ministers to consult with their colleagues in the Hemisphere to establish effective means through which the OAS could be revitalized, with due regard to its relations with other hemispheric institutions, and to agree on a timetable for the review and reform to be completed.

The Presidents also reviewed the situations in Iraq, the Middle East and Bosnia, where Chile and the United States are participating with peacekeeping forces under the mandate of the United Nations, and they agreed to maintain such important joint efforts on behalf of international peace.

In their capacity as Guarantors of the Rio Protocol, the Presidents reviewed recent progress achieved by the Governments of Ecuador and Peru and continue to urge both parties to settle their dispute by the May 30 target date agreed to by both parties.

The Presidents agreed to continue negotiations to reach a prompt agreement on cooperation that will provide for coordination of efforts of both countries to take more effective and timely action against illicit traffic of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and their related crimes, as well as to prevent the abuse of those substances. All this, with the aim of reaching full implementation of the principles and policies contained in the Hemispheric Strategy adopted in the framework of the Interamerican Commission for Drug Abuse Control.

They also look forward to the early completion of a customs mutual assistance agreement to advance cooperation against fraud.

To facilitate and further advance our close ties, the Presidents agreed to establish a Bilateral Consultative Mechanism at the Foreign Ministry level, and to advance its operations through the appropriate diplomatic channels.

William Jefferson Clinton
President of the
United States of America

Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle
President of the
Republic of Chile

NOTE: This joint statement was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary but was not issued as a White House press release. An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks to Business and Community Leaders in Santiago

April 16, 1998

Thank you very much, Mr. President, Mr. Fernandez, Mr. Riesco, Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen. First, let me thank President Frei for the warm welcome that Hillary and I and our entire delegation feel with our trip to Chile. I have looked forward to it for a long time.

To those of you who wonder about the commitment of the United States to this relationship, I would just note that in the audience here I am joined by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, National Security Adviser, our Trade Representative, our National Drug Control Policy Director, my Special Envoy to the Americas, the Director of the Small Business Administration, the Director of OPIC, and five distinguished Members of the United States Congress—Congressmen Hamilton, Hinojosa, Rodriguez, Levin, and Portman.

We are glad to be here, and together we hope we will be able to persuade you by our presence, if not by my words, of the importance that we attach to our growing relationship with Chile.

I'm told that when this city was founded in 1541, it was called Santiago del Nuevo Extremo—Santiago of the New Frontier. On the verge of the 21st century, Santiago is again on that new frontier. It is a window through which we can see over tomorrow's horizon to a future of freedom and broadly-shared prosperity.

You are helping to build that future. The Summit of the Americas that President Frei will host this weekend is helping to build that future. Never before have the Americas been so united in values, interests, and goals. We have to keep that in mind as there are bumps along the way or inevitable differences as all human beings will have.

Chile and the United States are working hard to seize the promise of our shared values and interests and visions. The President has already outlined all the things we have agreed to do together today. No one can fail to be impressed by the economic performance of this great nation. Sound, consistent policies have produced high growth, low inflation, more savings, less poverty. Chile stands at the vanguard now of a new revolution of freedom and enterprise that is indeed embracing all of Latin America. Last year Latin America and the Caribbean combined had an average growth rate of more than 5 percent, with the lowest inflation rate in 50 years.

There has been an explosive increase in commerce within our neighborhood, and more than goods are flowing across our borders. Between 1991 and 1996, the number of minutes for telephone calls from the United States to South America tripled. In that same period, the number of planes that left Miami for Central and South America increased by over 50 percent. More and more young people from our countries are studying in each other's schools and colleges, enriching their lives and our cultures. Thanks to the new spirit of openness, capital flows across our borders are absolutely massive.

I remember it was just a month after our first Summit of the Americas in Miami in 1994 that the Mexican peso crisis struck. It shook the entire region. I'm sure some of you have a vague memory of it. *[Laughter]* But instead of closing their doors, Mexico, and indeed, all of Latin America, deepened their reforms. Now Mexico is back and is our country's second largest export market.

In general, Latin America has grown so strong that I think even a lot of you are probably surprised that this region has weathered the shock of the Asian financial crisis as well as the region has. It is a great tribute to those of you who have worked for and fought for and lived by smart, sensible, disciplined policies over the last several years.

Now, of course, we know that there is more to do. Just last December our Finance Ministers committed here in Santiago to tighten bank supervision, fight money laundering, and to provide new credit to the smallest entrepreneurs—the kind of people

that President Frei just mentioned, that we met with a few moments ago in San Miguel. But every outside observer knows that Latin America has found its voice, its confidence, and its well-earned seat at the international table. The United States is delighted by the success of Chile, and indeed all our neighbors. Our futures are joined like a cord that gains its strength from the many threads that are tightly intertwined.

Today, more than 40 percent of America's exports go to our hemispheric neighbors. Our exports in this region are growing more than twice as fast as anywhere else in the world. With three of our four top energy suppliers in the Americas, we can literally say that this hemisphere fuels our growth. Your prosperity lifts ours, just as a healthy United States economy helps you. The better you do, the better off we will be in our increasingly interdependent world.

The United States, therefore, will continue to work for more cooperation and more integration. At our summit this weekend, we'll take the next step toward open trade in the hemisphere by launching comprehensive negotiations for the free trade area of the Americas, as we committed to do 4 years ago in Miami. All of you know, as the previous speakers have said, it will create opportunities for producers throughout the Americas; it will create new jobs and higher living standards for our workers; it will create better buys for 800 million consumers; it will help to lock in market reforms and democratic triumphs throughout the hemisphere.

And let me also say that it won't be the first time that the United States has launched its own involvement in negotiations of this kind without fast-track authority. Before they're done, we'll have it and it will work.

Let me also say, I am especially pleased that for the very first time we are creating a special committee to expand the role of environmental and labor groups in our trade deliberations. Those who want to protect and enhance the role of working people in the global economy, and those who remind us that we dare not sacrifice our children's planet for present profits should be heard. Their voices and their concerns should shape, but cannot reverse, our emerging partnership.

We can grow the economy and not only preserve but indeed improve the environment. We can have prosperity and indeed enjoy more of it if we assure that it is broadly shared.

The benefits for America's workers and companies and consumers for expanding trade should make, in my judgment, a clear case for fast-track authority. I thank you for the support you have given it. I will continue to work hard with Congress to build support for fast-track. But let me say something to you that I am convinced of. There is not a majority in either House of the United States Congress for a return to misguided protectionism. What there is in the United States and in our Congress is what you have in every country in Latin America—there is a continuing and vibrant debate about how we're going to grow in the global economy in a way that gives everybody a chance to be a part of that growth, and in a way that recognizes values that may not be built in to today's market systems, like environmental preservation. And what I am doing my best to do is to persuade our Congress that walking away from what I believe to be a colossal opportunity with Chile and with the rest of our partners in Latin America is neither the best way to lift labor standards or to preserve the environment. But the debate is worth having.

So be patient with us. You may decide to have the debate yourselves before it's over in some other forum which may prevent some decision from being made as quickly as you would like.

Winston Churchill once said that democracy was absolutely the worst system of government except for all the others. *[Laughter]* He also once said in a moment of frustration with our country that the United States invariably does the right thing, after having exhausted every other alternative. *[Laughter]* So just stay with us; we'll get there.

But we must recognize, let me say again, that the combined force of globalization and technology have given us all economies in which a rising tide does not necessarily lift all boats. People without the right education, without training, without skills, without bargaining power can be stranded on yesterday's shore. And remember, some Latin democ-

racies have not been that way all that long, and we cannot afford to have conditions in which ordinary people—the kind of people the President and I met with today—lose faith in the ability of this system, not only to produce wealth in the aggregate but to actually change their lives and to give their children better lives than they've had—if they work.

So that—we have to continue to see the enhancement and broadening of democracy and free enterprise together. As we encourage more business contracts, we must also strengthen the social contract. For every citizen must believe that he or she can have a place in the future we are building together. Of course, the only place to start in such an endeavor is with our children and their education. It is the best path out of poverty, and it is very good for business' future.

In order to do that, I might also add, we have to give every child a chance to go to school by making sure they're not in the workplace illegally. The United States is working with Central America to launch a new initiative to combat child labor while helping parents to find good jobs. Earlier this year, I asked our Congress for a tenfold increase in our investment to combat child labor abuses worldwide. I hope our neighbors will join us in that fight. Again, no one has a long-term interest in taking children who ought to be in school and putting them in the workplace. And over the long-run, that will diminish a nation's wealth, productivity, and strength.

We must do more to deepen democracy's roots with a free press, an honest, efficient judiciary, strong protections for existing laws on working standards. We have to work harder to reduce the gap between rich and poor, which has been widening in most industrialized and industrializing countries in recent years. We must continue the fight together against corruption, drugs, and crime. They erode the fabric of all our societies. And we must do more together to protect our environment.

Harnessing the forces of globalization to work for all our citizens is literally a challenge for every nation in the world. I just got back from a long trip to Africa, and I saw the same thing in every country. It will be a major

focus of the Summit of the Americas, thanks to the leadership of President Frei. It will be at the top of the agenda when the G-8 countries meet in Birmingham next month, because everybody knows we have to figure out how to do this. Those of you in business can help us lead the way.

In the meeting that the President and I mentioned to you with small entrepreneurs and people who had gotten an education and worked their way out of poverty, a few moments ago, they didn't talk to us about the intricacies of trade, but they did understand education, child care, jobs, and access to credit. They will trust us in our respective countries to make these big structural decisions, and to make them right, as long as they feel that somebody is making some decisions that give them a chance to make their future along with ours. Working families in that sense, from Santiago to San Diego, may not be all that much different.

I want our nations to work together. And let me say, I have been profoundly impressed by President Frei's commitment to improve and expand access to education. Chile has doubled its social spending since 1990, largely for education, more classrooms, longer school days, better access for disadvantaged children. Our agreement on education is quite substantive. We've agreed to exchange more students and teachers, to develop higher standards of learning and teacher training, to work to bring technology into every classroom. And I can tell you, again, on every continent where I have been where education is a crying issue, and many children in small rural areas have no access to it, I see how we can skip a generation of development, painful development in education, if we make the most of today's technology.

No country can do it without the active, aggressive partnership of the business community in every country, and I hope you will help President Frei in that regard. You can revolutionize the future of Chile's children if you do.

Let me just make one other substantive point. I have had great conversations with the President about what I believe is the imperative for all nations to work together on the problem of climate change. In many developing economies, there is a reluctance to

participate in trying to meet the goals announced at Kyoto in Japan last year, because many people believe that poor countries cannot become rich countries without emitting more greenhouse gases and, therefore, that any attempt by the developed countries like the United States, who are already big offenders in the greenhouse gases we emit, must be some dark conspiracy to hold others down.

In the first place, that's bad economics, because the United States should want all of our trading partners to get wealthier. That is what is in our interest. No one is interested in that. But I can tell you this—I said before when the President and I had our press conference—for 30 years, every time we have sought to improve the environment in America, someone has stood up and said, "If you take this step to clean the air, to clean the water, to improve the health of the food supply, you will cost jobs and hurt the economy." And for 30 years, every single step we have taken to improve the environment has helped the American economy.

We can reduce greenhouse gas emissions worldwide and grow the economy, and we need to do it in the most comprehensive way possible. I respect very much the President's leadership on that, but I will make you a prediction that those of us—our successors, whoever will be sitting here 15 years from now at a speech like this, representing your group, will be overwhelming concerned with the condition of the global environment and what it does or does not do for their ability to make a good living. So I hope we will deal with this now when it will be less painful, instead of waiting until later when it will be much more costly.

Through bold commitments like the FTAA negotiations, to improve education, to work on strengthening our justice system, and freedom of expression, our new hemispheric alliance against drugs, more work to alleviate poverty, the Santiago summit that President Frei is chairing is going to make a difference to the future of the Americas. We will leave the summit with a clear message to the world that Miami was not a one-shot effort, that we are broadening our cooperation, but that we intend to move forward with more determination across a broader range.

I know that all of you will support that. What I ask you to do is to do all you can to make sure that everyone with whom you work and anyone with whom you have contact back in the United States understands what we're doing and why.

In 1811, as Chile struggled for its independence, it chose to dedicate its national flag on July 4, which is our Independence Day, at a celebration held by United States citizens in Santiago, long, long ago. On that day, the American flag and the new Chilean banner were raised together in many public places, entwined with one another. At last, our partnership can fulfill the potential of those two entwined flags, for our goals and our dreams are clearly intertwined. We can make them real for tomorrow's generation; we can make the Americas a model of hope and unity for the world. We can do it if we follow the lead that I have seen set by this great President and this great nation. And we're glad to be here.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:50 p.m. in the Teatro Municipal. In his remarks, he referred to Alex Fernandez, president, Chilean-American Chamber of Commerce; Walter Riesco, president, Confederation of Production and Commerce; and Mayor Jaime Ravinet of Santiago.

Exchange With Reporters in Santiago

April 16, 1998

President's Visit to Chile

Q. Do you like Chile?

The President. Very much.

Q. Did you eat something special inside? Did you eat something special?

The President. No, no. I just had lunch, so I just had a Coke. And I was visiting with the people. It was very nice.

Q. Are you tired from all this week, these 2 days here in our country? Are you tired?

The President. Tired?

Q. Yes.

The President. A little, but I'm going to go back and get a little nap, and then I'll be fine tonight.

Independent Counsel's Investigation

Q. [Inaudible]—Kenneth Starr's going to keep investigating you, and Paula Jones says she's going to appeal——

The President. [Inaudible]—I've had a great time.

Q. What do you think about Paula Jones appealing, Mr. President? Are you disappointed that she's appealing?

The President. Oh, I don't have an opinion about it. You know, I don't have any comment about it. My comment is, I spent my day today with people who are interested in human problems and human promise and not so interested in politics. And I don't think I ought to be commenting on politics while I'm here. I feel good about what happened before, and I feel good about where we are, and mostly I feel good about the job I'm doing here for the American people in Chile. And that's what I'm interested in. I don't really have any comment on anything that they do.

Q. Will things dragging on hamper that, sir?

The President. No. No. I'm going to—you know, I'm going to do my job. And I'm not—it's an unusual political environment, but I'm just not going to let the politics get into my way. I haven't done it for 4 years; I'm not going to start now.

Q. Do you think Ken Starr should wrap things up?

The President. I don't have any comment on that, either. I just don't—I shouldn't be commenting on domestic politics while I'm overseas. I'm here doing my job, and I'm thrilled by the people I've met and what I've seen, the reception I've received on behalf of the United States. And we're here to do important work, and that's what I'm going to do.

NOTE: The exchange began at 4:22 p.m. outside the Teatro Municipal. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on Tornado Damage in Arkansas and Tennessee

April 16, 1998

I was deeply saddened to learn this morning of the tragic deaths of two small children

in Arkansas, as well as the deaths of two individuals from Dyer County, Tennessee. My heart goes out to their parents and families and to the many who have suffered in both States. The destruction of last night's tornadoes was swift and powerful, and the threat of another storm looms in its wake.

Disaster relief efforts began today at daybreak. James Lee Witt, the Director of FEMA, will provide me with an assessment of the destruction and FEMA is standing ready to respond if appropriate. The burden of recovery is heavy, but it will not be carried by these communities alone. Our thoughts and prayers are with the survivors as they mourn all that was lost and begin the difficult process of healing and rebuilding.

Statement on the Death of Pol Pot

April 16, 1998

The death of Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot has again brought to international attention one of the most tragic chapters of inhumanity in the twentieth century. Between 1975 and 1979, Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge followers transformed Cambodia into the killing fields, causing the death of an estimated 2 million of their countrymen in a brutal attempt to transform Cambodian society.

Although the opportunity to hold Pol Pot accountable for his monstrous crimes appears to have passed, senior Khmer Rouge, who exercised leadership from 1975 to 1979, are still at large and share responsibility for the monstrous human rights abuses committed during this period. We must not permit the death of the most notorious of the Khmer Rouge leaders to deter us from the equally important task of bringing these others to justice. And equally, we must renew our determination to prevent such atrocities from occurring in the future.

Now is a time to remember the victims of Pol Pot's murderous reign of terror and to underscore our determination to help the Cambodian people achieve a lasting peace based on respect for basic human rights and democratic principles.

Remarks at a State Dinner Hosted by President Frei in Santiago

April 16, 1998

Mr. President, Mrs. Frei, members of the Chilean Government, citizens of this great nation: On behalf of my wife, our administration, the Members of Congress and our entire party, I thank you for the warm welcome we have received. And I understand that I should thank you in advance for your patience because the great gathering of this coming week will probably create the biggest taco in your history. *[Laughter]*

For those in our delegation who don't know, that means traffic jam.

Mr. President, it was just over a year ago that Hillary and I hosted you and Martita for a state visit in Washington. On that trip you delivered a powerful address to a joint session of our Congress. Now I will have the opportunity and the honor of addressing your Parliament tomorrow.

The short time between our visits reflects the growing strength and the growing importance of our relations. Chile is admired in the United States and around the world for its natural beauty, its writers and artists, its athletes, its leadership in seeking peace in volatile regions, its remarkable economic growth and stability, and the bravery of your people in restoring longstanding democracy after two turbulent decades.

That Chile is host to the second Summit of the Americas shows the esteem in which your country is held in this hemisphere. It also demonstrates, Mr. President, the great respect you have earned among your fellow leaders who are proud to be coming here for this meeting.

Some see you, Mr. President, as a man of calm reserve; a civil engineer who, as you just said, expertly builds bridges to improve the lives of your fellow citizens. But it seems to me there may be another side to you. It is said that you love opera and the tango—hardly the stuff of dry engineering. *[Laughter]* And when you addressed our Congress last year, the first person you quoted was not some gray-suited economist, but that great political leader, Don Quixote de la Mancha. The words of the noble Don you selected go to the core of our shared values; so let

me repeat them tonight: "Freedom is one of the most precious gifts heaven bestows on man. All the treasure of Earth cannot equal it."

Mr. President, we have seen that like your father before you, you care passionately about the freedom of your people and about the least fortunate in your society. I'm sure your father was in your thoughts when, in your very first address as Chile's President, you pledged to bring hope and dignity to the poorest of your fellow citizens. You've worked hard to ensure that your growing prosperity will benefit not just the few, but everyone.

And Mrs. Frei deserves great credit for her active work on behalf of the poor, women and children, and Chilean artisans. The United States wants to deepen our partnership with Chile across the whole range of challenges and opportunities we share, strengthening democracy, improving education, protecting the environment, preserving the peace, and yet, expanding trade. Our meeting today furthered all these goals. I know we will continue to do the same. So much is at stake. Working with the Chilean people and with you, Mr. President, is a great honor for me, my Government, and our citizens.

In the darkest days of the past year, when dissent was suppressed, when people were denied a meaningful vote and true leaders denied the chance to lead, the Chilean people never abandoned hope that one day things would get better. Now, because of your hope, the courage, the vision of your leadership, and your people, things are, indeed, better—much better. Better in a way that is a beacon of hope to people throughout this hemisphere, and, indeed—perhaps more than you know—throughout the world.

Now the United States and Chile celebrate together the precious gifts of freedom and prosperity, and our determination to support democracy and to advance prosperity all across the Americas and throughout the world.

For all that you have done and the reception we have received, and for all that we must do together for tomorrow, I am honored to invite all of you to join me in a toast

to the President, the First Lady, and the people of Chile.

[At this point, the President delivered a toast.]

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:20 p.m. at the La Moneda Palace. In his remarks, he referred to President Frei's wife, Marta.

Remarks to the National Congress of Chile in Valparaiso

April 17, 1998

Thank you very much. To the President of the Senate, the President of the Chamber of Deputies, to the members of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, members of the Chilean Cabinet, members of the diplomatic corps, my fellow Americans, including members of our administration, Members of Congress, the Governor of Puerto Rico, ladies and gentlemen. First, let me thank you for the warm reception that Hillary and I, the Secretary of State, Secretary of Education, and our entire delegation has received not only here but by the people of Chile.

We are honored to be in this great nation, a place of marvelous gifts and well-earned accomplishments. Visitors here marvel at the beauty and extraordinary contrast of your landscape, from the desert north to the towering ranges of the Andes, to the mysteries of Easter Island, to the southern beaches where penguins brave Antarctic winds.

Your culture moves the world in poetry and prose and music and dance, in theater and films, haunted by the spirits of the past, enriched by dreams of the future. Your Nobel Prize winning poets, Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda, have moved readers everywhere. Neruda's words and rhythms still come alive on every continent; his echo still heard in internationally acclaimed Chilean works like the novels of Jose Donoso and Antonio Skarmeta.

Your economic success is admired the world over. Indeed, more and more other nations, whether developed or developing, want to be able to learn from your example. But over and above all those gifts and achievements, Chile possesses something older than the achievements, and perhaps

even more valuable than nature's gifts—your devotion to freedom and democracy, a long and proud tradition.

Not so very long ago now, freedom-loving people everywhere in the world cheered and cheered when the people of Chile bravely reclaimed their democratic heritage. Our hemisphere's longing for democracy goes all the way back to George Washington and Simon Bolivar. Today we work to claim its full blessings, for a strong democracy honors all its people, respecting their dignity and fundamental rights, giving them the responsibility to govern, demanding that they tolerate each other's differences in an honorable fashion.

It honors its children, giving all of them the opportunity to learn so that they can live their dreams. It honors its poor, its ill, its elderly, offering them support, leaving no one without hope. It honors entrepreneurs with efficient and honest government, offering the chance to create prosperity. It honors its writers, its artists, and its press, ensuring freedom of expression, no matter, and perhaps especially, when it is painful to hear. It honors its soldiers for their commitment to defend the people, not to rule them. This principle was strongly championed by Diego Portales early in Chile's history.

Democracy is never perfect, but because it is open and free, it is always perfectible. In the words of our President Franklin Roosevelt, who tried so hard to be a good neighbor to Latin America, democracy is a never-ending seeking for better things.

At different points in this century, many nations of the Americas lost their democracy. Some of them lost it more than once. No one loves freedom more than those who have had it and lost it. No one prizes it more than those who have lost it and regained it. I know here I am in a room full of people who love freedom.

Freedom's victory now has been won throughout the Americas. With a single exception, the day of the dictators is over. The 21st century will be a century of democracy. To those anywhere in the Americas who would seek to take away people's precious liberties once again, or rule through violence and terror once again, let us reaffirm Presi-

dent Aylwin's historic words at Santiago Stadium, "*nunca mas*." Never again.

This commitment has now gone beyond those words; it is written into solemn compacts among the nations of our hemisphere. Here in Chile in 1991, the members of the Organization of American States unanimously adopted a commitment that we will stand together to defend democracy wherever it is threatened. And last year the OAS amended its founding charter so that member nations may actually suspend any regime that overthrows a government elected by its people.

We have backed our words with actions. In Haiti, nations from across the Americas, joined by others, participated in the United Nations' sponsored effort to restore a democracy that had been stolen by military force. Nations of this hemisphere stood with the people of Paraguay to preserve democracy when it was threatened there in 1996. A message should be clear to all: We have made a decision that in this hemisphere—the people govern.

Now, having resolved to protect democracy, we must now do much, much more to perfect democracy. And we must do it throughout our hemisphere. Free elections are democracy's essential first step but not its last. And strong democracies deliver real benefits to their people. Across the Americas, there are still too many citizens who exercise their right to vote, but after the election is over, feel few benefits from the decisions made by their officials. This kind of popular frustration can fuel the ambitions of democracy's foes. As Chileans understand perhaps more clearly than any of their fellow Americans, there must be a second generation of reforms, beyond free elections and free markets, because for democracy to thrive, people must know that everyone who is willing to work will have a fair chance to share in the bounty of the nation.

Leaders must ensure that the political system, the legal system, the economic system are not rigged to favor those who already have much but instead give everyone a stake in shaping the future. A strong and thriving democracy requires, therefore, strengthening the rule of law, the independence of judges,

the professionalism of police, for justice must be honest.

It requires a strong and independent legislature to represent all the people, even when on occasion, they do not do what the President would like them to do. It requires a constant campaign against corruption so that public contracts are awarded based on merit and not bribes. It requires bank and securities' regulation to permit growth while guarding against cheaters and collapses. It requires a credit system, not only for those who are obviously successful but for enterprising people no matter how poor or remote their conditions. It requires a robust, free press that can raise serious questions and publish without censorship or fear.

A strong democracy also requires protecting the environment and attacking threats to it. It requires good schools and good health care. It requires protecting the rights of workers, standing up for the rights of women and children and minorities, fighting the drugs and crime and terrorism that eat away at democracy's foundations, reaching out across all sectors of society, from the corporate executive to the grassroots activists to the working family—again, to ensure that everyone has a stake in shaping the future.

Tomorrow, democratically-elected leaders will assemble in Santiago for the second Summit of the Americas to launch the next steps in our united efforts to build strong democracies that deliver for all our peoples.

Chile is a shining star in America's constellation, stable and resilient with budget surpluses, a high savings rate, a high growth rate, low unemployment, and low inflation. But Chile also is trying to do more to give everyone that precious stake in the future.

In his first address after taking office, President Frei pledged to work for all of Chile's people, and he has. Poverty has been cut in half compared to 1990 levels. The quality of education has improved, especially in poorer areas. Yesterday President and Mrs. Frei took Hillary and I to a neighborhood in Santiago where we talked to ordinary citizens who had benefited from educational opportunities and business opportunities in ways that enabled them to change their lives. Your citizens are working hard to protect the

environment, although just like those of us in my country, we've still got a ways to go.

The success of this nation goes beyond your borders. As President Frei noted last year in Washington, Chile was once known as the "end of the Earth." Now it is known as the forefront of progress—a leader for peace and justice and prosperity, a leader in this hemisphere and throughout the world.

I thank you for what democratic Chile has done to promote peace in El Salvador, Haiti, Bosnia, the Persian Gulf, between Peru and Ecuador. Your country served on the United Nations Security Council. You have taken the initiative to attack corruption and crime across the Americas. For all that, I thank you.

In the future, we must work together as we have in the past—indeed, as we have from the beginning—to strengthen our democracies and brighten our people's lives and broaden our children's futures. The friendship between the United States and Chile goes back to 1810, when our still young nation recognized your independence. Our friendship was off to a good start, but in all the long years and ups and downs, it has never been stronger or broader than it is today.

We are your largest trading partner, and trade between us has grown at an average of 13 percent a year since 1993. We want and will resolutely pursue a free-trade agreement that includes our two nations. And I will not be satisfied until we achieve that goal.

Chile and the United States must be full partners in the 21st century. We must also be full partners with like-minded democracies throughout our region. Tomorrow we will take a big step toward that full partnership as we begin the historic effort envisioned 4 years ago at the first Summit of the Americas in Miami, to create a free-trade area of the Americas by 2005. Meanwhile, as all of us know, the private sector is visibly proceeding as if it had already happened—expanding trade and investment, building successful joint enterprises in everything from mining to insurance to retailing.

We know that more trade and commerce will increase our collective prosperity. But we must resolve, again I say, to pursue that second level of reforms to ensure that prosperity

is widely shared. As President Frei has repeatedly said, clearly, for every nation, education is the key. More than ever before as nations and as individuals, our destiny depends upon what we know and how quickly we can learn. In a world where the volume of knowledge is doubling every 5 years, strong schools can give children the skills they need; it can also encourage their dreams. It can give people the power to overcome the inequalities between rich and poor. It can give nations the opportunity to fulfill their destiny.

President Frei and I have committed ourselves to work together and to learn from each other to improve the quality and the reach of education in both our nations. All of us—all of us—should apply our best efforts to that until we have done much better than we are doing now in every nation of the Americas.

As we travel into the 21st century, Chile can continue to rely on the United States as a friend and an ally. We have a great stake in your continuing success. You make the hemisphere safer and more prosperous. You are a strong partner in meeting our common challenges in this hemisphere and throughout the world.

Indeed, we welcome the growing strength of all nations that believe in freedom and human dignity and work for a brighter future for their people, so that the partnership between our two people, as we will see at the Summit of the Americas, is really part of a larger community of values sweeping across our hemisphere. As we all come together this weekend, we do so to make democracy work in ways that our people can feel, to advance the fight against common threats and for wider economic opportunity and deeper democracy. In the words of Neruda, our dreams become one.

On this very day, a consortium of universities from Chile, the United States, and other nations starts work on a powerful new telescope in northern Chile. Their astronomers will look up to the heavens, gazing deep into outer space and, therefore, deep into the past, so that they can learn things which will help us all to build a brighter future.

We must never forget our past, but we must use it. We must not use it to open old

wounds or to rest on the laurels of escape from its worst moments, but instead, to quicken our imagination of a better tomorrow and to propel us toward it.

Together, let us resolve that when this summit is done, the leaders of the United States and Chile will not rest until we have shined the light of freedom and lit the spark of hope in every corner of our nations, in every part of our hemisphere. That is a worthy mission for the new century in the new millennium for two peoples who have loved freedom for a long, long time.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:05 p.m. in the National Congress Building. In his remarks, he referred to President of the Senate Andres Zaldivar and President of the Chamber of Deputies Gutenberg Martinez; former President Patricio Aylwin of Chile; and Gov. Pedro Rossello of Puerto Rico.

Proclamation 7083—National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week, 1998

April 17, 1998

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

On December 1, 1997, 14-year-old Nicole Hadley was killed when a classmate opened fire inside her high school in Paducah, Kentucky. When doctors told Gwen and Chuck Hadley that their daughter had no hope for recovery, her parents remembered that Nicole believed strongly in organ donation, and in the midst of their own intense grief, the Hadleys made the courageous decision to honor Nicole's wishes and donate her organs. This decision helped to save the lives of at least two people and allowed Nicole's spirit of grace and generosity to live on after her death.

Thousands of families have made the same selfless decision and have given the gift of life to someone in need of an organ or tissue transplantation. Today, approximately 55,000 Americans are on the national organ transplant waiting list, hoping for a second chance. Yet, every day, 10 people will die because

organs are not available. These tragic deaths are unnecessary. Our country has a large number of people who qualify as organ donors—but many still have not chosen to become donors.

Last year, to help remedy this situation, Vice President Gore, with the Department of Health and Human Services, launched the National Organ and Tissue Donation Initiative to increase awareness of the urgent need for increased donation. We are working to ensure that all Americans know that by completing and carrying a donor card—and by making their families aware of their decision to donate—they may give the gift of life to other Americans or ease their suffering. And families who have lost their loved ones can gain solace in knowing that they have been able to bring life and comfort to others. This week, I encourage all Americans to honor the memory of Nicole Hadley—and the thousands of other generous people who have donated their organs—by learning more about the benefits of becoming an organ and tissue donor and by filling out a donor card.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 19 through April 25, 1998, as National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week. I urge all health care professionals, educators, the media, public and private organizations concerned with organ donation and transplantation, the clergy, and all Americans to join me in promoting greater awareness and acceptance of this humanitarian action.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 21, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 22.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 13

The President and Mrs. Clinton announced that the next Millennium Evening will be a celebration of American creativity through poetry featuring Poets Laureate Robert Pinsky, Robert Hass, and Rita Dove and will take place in the East Room at the White House on April 22.

April 14

In the morning, the President traveled to Houston, TX.

In the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with King Hussein I of Jordan concerning the Middle East and Northern Ireland peace processes and the President's trip to Africa.

In the evening, the President met with Hispanic leaders prior to the ESPN townhall meeting.

April 15

In the morning, the President traveled to Pratt City and McDonald Chapel, AL. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Santiago, Chile, arriving early the next morning.

April 16

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton met with President Eduardo Frei and his wife, Marta, at La Moneda Palace. Later, President Clinton and President Frei held bilateral meetings.

In the afternoon, President Clinton and President Frei toured a small business in the San Miguel neighborhood. Later, the Presidents and the First Ladies participated in a roundtable discussion with community leaders at San Andreas University.

April 17

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Valparaiso, Chile.

In the afternoon, they went to the town of Casablanca, where they participated in an informal discussion with community members. Later, the President addressed the community of Casablanca.

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton returned to Santiago.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jonathan Spalter as Associate Director for Information at the U.S. Information Agency.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements

Released April 13

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President and Mrs. Clinton's 1997 Federal tax return

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Joe Lockhart, Deputy Press Secretary Barry Toiv, and Assistant Secretary for Foreign Affairs Eric Rubin

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Samuel Berger, Special Envoy for the Americas Thomas F. (Mack) McLarty, and U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky on the President's visit to Chile

Released April 14

Transcript of a press briefing by President's Race Initiative Executive Director Judith Winston, Counselor to the President Paul Begala, San Francisco 49ers President Carmen Policy, and Deputy Press Secretary Joe Lockhart on the ESPN townhall meeting in Houston

Text of a letter from OMB Director Franklin D. Raines

Announcement of resignation of OMB Director Raines and nomination of successor

Released April 15

Statement by the Press Secretary: 1999 NATO Summit

Released April 16

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Samuel Berger, U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, Special Envoy for the Americas Thomas F. (Mack) McLarty, and Deputy Press Secretary Barry Toiv on the President's bilateral discussions with President Frei of Chile

Fact sheet: U.S.-Chile Partnership for the 21st Century

Released April 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy National Security Adviser Jim Steinberg and Deputy Press Secretary Barry Toiv on the President's address to the Chilean Congress

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

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